

Citrus

Spring 2014

CollegeNewsMagazine



STEM

Science - Technology - Engineering - Mathematics

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Welcome

In 2008, Citrus College launched a program that would greatly enhance its status as a leader among the nation's community colleges. Challenged by the need to develop the next generation of science and technology professionals, the college applied for, and was awarded, the first of two U.S. Department of Education grants. This took an already solid academic program to a new level, while opening new doors of educational opportunities for thousands of students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Now in its sixth year, the Citrus College STEM Program has achieved extraordinary outcomes. The number of STEM associate degrees conferred at Citrus College increased 96 percent over a four-year period, and students who transferred to four-year colleges and universities as STEM majors increased 23 percent. In addition, the number of Hispanic STEM student transfers increased from 22 percent to 33 percent during a three-year period—important evidence of the STEM Program's success in its efforts to reach underrepresented students.

The faculty and staff who were committed to building a first-class STEM program are responsible for the STEM students' outstanding achievements. In addition to developing a successful academic program, these dedicated educators were at the forefront of a strong demand. In 2012, four years after the STEM Program was established at Citrus College, the White House published "Engage to Excel," a report from the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology that called for "one million additional college graduates with degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics." Citrus College was well on the way to contributing to this essential need.

The significance of the Citrus College STEM Program is revealed through our students themselves. In this issue of *Citrus College News Magazine*, Alejandra Garcia, Stacy Guzman, Crystal Cortez, Nico Courts, Kesean Diamond, and Waymon Ho share heartfelt accounts of their experiences as STEM Program students that reflect their love for their disciplines and plans for successful careers.

As always, I am grateful for the alumni, donors, and friends who continue to support our institution. You are essential to our success as a College of Completion.

Sincerely,



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



SPRING 2014



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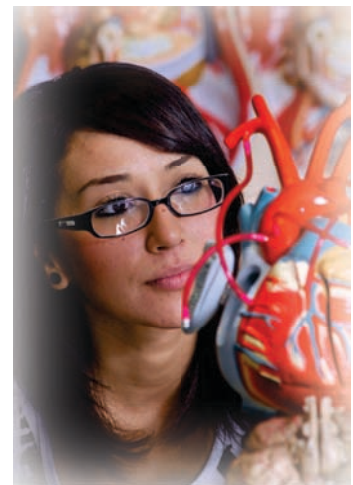
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A Citrus College student participates in a physiology lab.

The **Citrus College News Magazine** is an official publication of Citrus College. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please e-mail correspondence to Foundation@citruscollege.edu. Citrus College Foundation, 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1899

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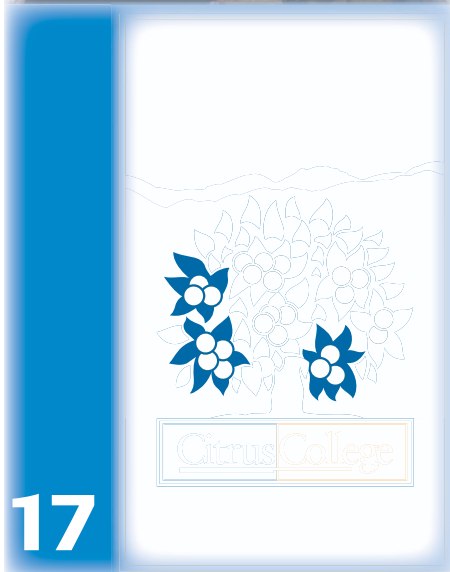
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STEM Enables Students to Achieve Success

by Stacy Armstrong

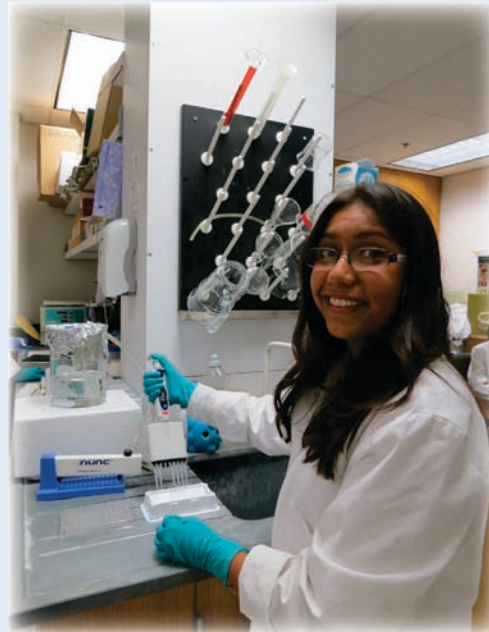
Alejandra Garcia loves animals. It is an affinity that serves as the foundation for her dream of becoming a veterinarian. However, it seemed unlikely that this dream would ever become reality. After all, to be a veterinarian she would need to complete college—something nobody in her family had ever done.

But, Alejandra’s determination helped her become the first person in her family to graduate from high school. It also led her to Citrus College.

“My goal is to go as far as I can,” the 20-year-old El Monte resident said. “I believe that education is extremely important, and I hope to one day earn a Ph.D.”

To help reach this goal, Alejandra became part of the Citrus College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program. “STEM classes are not easy, but the program provides me with the resources I need to succeed,” the biology major said. “It motivates me to do my best and has transformed me into a more responsible student.”

Alejandra’s story is not uncommon. Since its inception in 2008, the Citrus College STEM Program has placed hundreds of students on the path toward academic and professional success. By doing so, the college is also helping to meet a critical need.



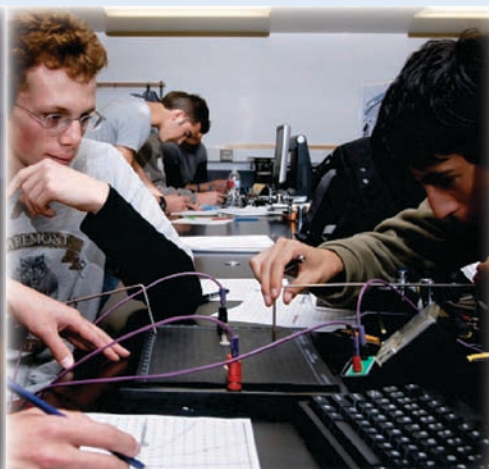
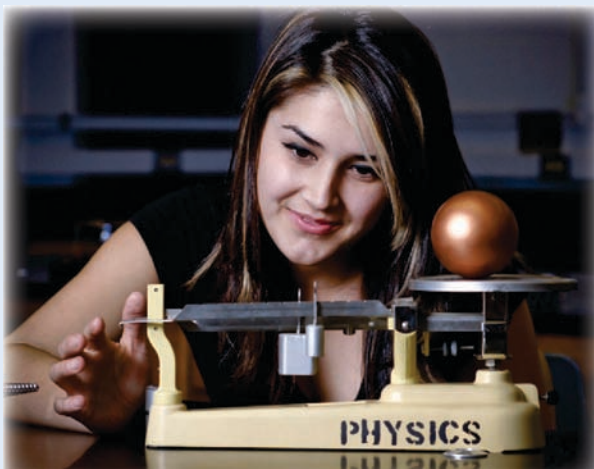
Future veterinarian Alejandra Garcia spent a summer doing research at Cal Poly Pomona, thanks to the opportunities provided by the Citrus College STEM Program.

Background

Over fifty years ago, the United States gained its standing as a world leader in part due to its scientific and engineering innovations. Today, a lack of skilled workers in these same fields threatens this position.

Recognizing the need to develop a new generation of science and technology professionals, Citrus College applied for, and received, a \$3.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education in 2008. The purpose of this grant was to increase participation and ensure the success of first-generation, low income, and underrepresented college students in STEM.

“Science and mathematics have always been an important aspect of education at Citrus College, but the



2008 grant really enabled us to strengthen our STEM offerings,” said Dr. Eric Rabitoy, dean of natural and physical sciences and library services, and one of the early champions of the STEM Program. “We needed the funding to make the transition happen.”

The grant funded “Citrus Connect,” a project that allowed the college to develop effective outreach programs to the community and local K-12 schools, promote early college readiness, and prepare students to meet STEM academic requirements. In addition, it provided expanded academic and student support services at Citrus College for STEM students.

As part of the grant, Citrus College created the STEM Center, which features many important, interactive resources. The grant also funded the Math Success Center, where students can receive informal math tutoring on a drop-in basis.

Thus began the foundation of a highly successful STEM Program. However, there was still much to be done. The college, therefore, pursued additional funding, and in 2011 the U.S. Department of Education presented the institution with a second STEM grant. The five-year \$4.2 million award is being used to build upon and strengthen Citrus College’s programs in the STEM fields through a coordinated effort known as “RACE (Rise Above Challenges Exponentially) to STEM.”

In order to meet the goals of increasing the number of underrepresented students attaining STEM degrees and increasing STEM transfer rates, the project has been separated into three stages: “Get Ready,” “Get Set,” and “Go.”

“Get Ready”

The “Get Ready” aspect of RACE to STEM focuses on community outreach. Specifically, it seeks to provide local middle and high school students with pre-collegiate preparation in the areas of science and mathematics.

One way it accomplishes this is through the annual “Secrets of Science Summer Camp (S3C),” which involves hands-on science activities and laboratories designed to promote student engagement.

There is also the PAGE (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry Enrichment) Program, designed to enhance the math skills of students who have completed sixth and seventh grade. And finally, STEM Day for Girls is an annual collaboration with the American Association of University Women’s East Valley Branch that draws several hundred eighth grade girls from the San Gabriel Valley region.

The hope is that young students who participate in these programs will eventually enroll in a college or university as STEM majors. If these students choose to enroll at Citrus College, they will have the opportunity to benefit from the second stage of the project.

“Get Set”

The “Get Set” aspect of RACE to STEM provides academic opportunities to current Citrus College students. It involves innovative resources and a supportive community of STEM-focused faculty, staff and students.

To maximize these opportunities, students are encouraged to join the STEM Academy. Members of the STEM Academy receive regular newsletters and additional e-mail announcements designed specifically for their interests.

One of the most popular opportunities available for STEM students is Supplemental Instruction (SI), an educational support model in which peers facilitate study sessions for students in historically difficult courses.

“At Citrus College, we prioritize SI for courses that have suffered from high failure rates,” said Dr. Barbara Juncosa, a Citrus College faculty member. “The goal is for students to work through challenging concepts and acquire new study skills in an informal environment.”



The STEM Program offers a variety of academic support services to students enrolled in science, technology, engineering and mathematics classes.

The success of SI is undeniable. Students who attend Supplemental Instruction sessions have been found to receive one letter grade higher than those who do not.

Another program that utilizes peer support is SIGMA (Support and Inspire to Gain Motivation and Achievement). This special resource involves more experienced students providing information, support and encouragement to less experienced students on a one-on-one basis.

“Peer mentoring is a support mechanism that can significantly impact mentored students’ desire to succeed in their academic goals,” said Lucia Riderer, a Citrus College faculty member and SIGMA coordinator.

STEM Learning Communities also depend on the interaction of peers. A learning community involves the linking of classes and a group of students that take these classes as a cohort. The instructors of the linked classes interact regularly and assign a group project overlapping both subjects.

“Learning communities foster a sense of belonging, giving community college students a strong connection to each other, and to their professors,” said Victoria Dominguez, Citrus College mathematics instructor.

The RACE to STEM project provides opportunities for students to explore their academic options through workshops where professionals in the STEM fields share their experiences. In addition, students also receive specialized STEM counseling throughout their journey.

When students successfully overcome all of their academic obstacles, they move on to the next stage of the RACE to STEM project.



Stacy Guzman, with Citrus College alumnus Adrian Iniguez, volunteers at the STEM Program information table located in the STEM Center.

“Go”

The “Go” stage encourages students to utilize what they have learned, and the Summer Research Experience (SRE) allows them to do just that. Every summer, more than 35 STEM students are placed in cutting-edge university laboratories or other research sites, paired with mentors, and tasked with working full-time for a period of six to eight weeks. *(For additional information about SRE, see pages 10 and 11 of this magazine.)*

STEM students can also put their education to work through the RISE (Research in Science and Engineering) Program. The Rocket Owls, Space Owls, and CAPE Owls are the three student teams that comprise RISE. Each team works independently on a STEM-based research project and competes in intercollegiate national and international competitions, as well as conducts monthly outreach activities to local K-8 schools.

The students who participate in the STEM research programs find them to be transformative.

“There is only so much a student can learn from taking a class,” said 22-year-old Stacy Guzman, a Citrus College biology major. “Research provided me with a hands-on experience and helped me understand the theoretical aspect of science. More importantly, it showed me that I would like to conduct research as a career.”

The Citrus College STEM Program – and the many opportunities it affords – changes the lives of students on a daily basis. The hope is that one day these same students will change the world.

Faculty & Staff

Instructors Share Enthusiasm for STEM



Dr. Christine Goedhart

Dr. Christine Goedhart believes this is a great time to be a biology instructor. “Currently, technology and scientific discoveries are progressing so rapidly that our ability to understand the world around us is increasing exponentially,” she said. “As we push the boundaries of what we know, there is always new information and examples to include in my courses, which makes it exciting to teach within the sciences.”

Since 2012, Dr. Goedhart has been sharing this enthusiasm with Citrus College students. “My goal is a learning environment where my students not only see the relevance of the material, but also gain the ability to use scientific thinking and analysis to address the issues and challenges that we face as a society and to make more informed and educated decisions.”

Dr. Goedhart’s passion for educating community college students can be attributed to her own academic roots. She also holds an associate degree from Fullerton College, a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Fullerton, and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine.



Jesus Gutierrez

Although Jesus Gutierrez has been lauded for being an excellent educator, the Citrus College mathematics instructor says his teaching method is a work in progress. “I constantly reflect on areas of improvement,” he said. “I strive to enhance my lectures and group activities to engage the learner.”

Gutierrez’ personal quest for excellence is demonstrated in the classroom. “My goal is to create an optimal learning environment that recognizes the many factors that go into learning math: maintaining student motivation, divorcing the student from their misconceptions, building a coalition of learners that freely work with one another outside of class, and lastly, maximizing participation.”

This is a goal Gutierrez has worked towards since joining Citrus College in 2007. A community college graduate, he has an associate degree from Rio Hondo College, a Bachelor of Science degree in applied mathematics with a minor in statistics from UCLA, and a master’s degree in general mathematics from California State University, Los Angeles.

Faculty Inquiry Groups Promote Innovative Teaching

The Citrus College STEM Program offers a faculty development component that allows instructors to explore ideas on improving student learning and engagement. This component, known as Faculty Inquiry Groups (FIGs), is comprised of STEM instructors who meet regularly to compare teaching methods, exchange ideas, and gain more exposure to the academic literature in their subject areas. FIGs allow these instructors to become more knowledgeable and better equipped to motivate and educate their students, which results in more successful student outcomes.



FIGs allow STEM faculty, such as mathematics instructor Mohammed Trad, to further enhance student learning.

STEM Program Transforms Students' Lives

Crystal Cortez, Class of 2012

Many children develop a fascination with dinosaurs when they reach preschool age. Upland resident Crystal Cortez admits that it was her older brother who influenced her interest in the prehistoric creatures. "He taught me how to pronounce Pachycephalosaurus at age four," she remembers. But, what often proves to be a passing fancy for many has become a prospective career for Cortez.

A recent graduate of Citrus College, Cortez is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). She plans on eventually earning a Ph.D. in vertebrate paleontology. "I hope to one day teach at the university level," she says.

Pursuing her childhood dream wasn't always Cortez' plan. "At first, I thought I could never make my love for paleontology a career. So, after high school, I entered the corporate world," she said. "However, my passion for adventure never left, and I decided to go back to school!"

Cortez made Citrus College the first stop on her academic journey. "I had heard great things about the many opportunities available at Citrus for students," she said. One such opportunity was the college's STEM program. "I owe a lot of my academic success to the STEM Center, where I had access to tutoring, Supplemental Instruction (SI), and a comfortable place to study," Cortez recalls. "They even provided me with a job as a tutor and SI leader for geology."

Cortez also received the opportunity to conduct research. "The STEM faculty and staff placed me at CSUF, which led me to change my original plan of transferring to UC Riverside," she said. "Since enrolling at Fullerton, I have been able to attend professional meetings throughout the United States and participate in exciting paleontology research."

Next on Cortez' agenda is a summer 2014 trip to Thailand, where she will be conducting research at Chiang Mai University. Well on her way to achieving her goals, Cortez believes her success wouldn't have been possible without Citrus College. "Having the wonderful Citrus College professors believe in me helped me become a more confident person. Overall, I have grown as a stu-



As a Citrus College student, Crystal Cortez participated in the STEM collaboration between Citrus College and Cal State Fullerton. She is now a student at Fullerton.

dent," she said. "I am a Citrus success story because I never gave up and I have gotten further in my dream than I ever thought possible."

"I still pinch myself every morning to make sure it's real," she adds.

Nico Courts, Class of 2013

Nicholas "Nico" Courts wants to make mathematics exciting. "My main purpose in life is to bring life and color into an area that has long been considered cold and calculating," he said. "Many people see math as a mere tool to achieve their ends. My goal is to lift the veil on its beauty. I hope to be able to convince more students to stop fearing math and instead begin embracing it."

Courts' educational journey presented some challenges. "I actually began my college career at the University of California, Merced, but I was not mentally or emotion-



Citrus College alumna Nico Courts, pictured with Dr. Marianne Smith, received a Key of Knowledge for his achievement in mathematics. He currently attends USC.

universities around the country and provide undergraduates with an opportunity to perform research in their chosen field,” Courts said. “I am excited to have the opportunity to explore what mathematics research looks like.”

In the future, he hopes to become an educator. “I plan on leveraging my academic performance and research experience to earn a position in a Ph.D. program,” Courts said. “From there, I would like to get a position in academia where I can help a new generation of young minds understand and appreciate the intricacies of mathematics.”

ally prepared to take control of my own education,” Courts said. “I performed very poorly in my classes and dropped to the lowest point of my life in terms of happiness and satisfaction.”

“After leaving college and spending years trying to find my way, I finally turned to Citrus College,” the Glendora resident said. “At first, Citrus was merely a choice of convenience. It had always been a presence in my life and its proximity allowed me to minimize my commute and intertwine work and school. I also appreciated the fact that the college had so many different facets to explore.”

He quickly began taking advantage of the many opportunities provided by the STEM Program. “I believe that Citrus College has done students a great service by taking such an all-encompassing approach to education,” he said. “I am convinced that Citrus was the only college that could have led me to where I am today.”

Where Courts is today is the University of Southern California (USC). He is attending with a full scholarship and majoring in mathematics. He is also applying for summer research experiences. “These programs are hosted in

“ I believe that Citrus College has done students a great service by taking such an all-encompassing approach to education. ”

– Nico Courts

Students

Summer Research Experience Introduces



Kesean Diamond, Citrus College STEM student

“The greatest highlight of my time at Citrus College thus far has been having the opportunity to conduct research at Cal Poly, Pomona. I saw how research can play a part in medicine and help the pursuit of wellness for others.”

– Kesean Diamond

In 2013, Kesean Diamond had an eventful summer. The 23-year-old La Verne resident spent eight weeks trying to improve the treatment of patients diagnosed with cancer, HIV/AIDS, and immune-suppressed conditions.

“I was working with macrophages, cells in the body that are linked to the immune system. They are responsible for engulfing foreign objects and disposing of them,” he said. “I studied how these cells interact with a drug known as AmBisome, or AmBi for short.”

According to Diamond, AmBi is a fungal drug used to help patients suffering from weakened immune systems or people who live in harsh environments.

“It was my job to research the drug and see if it would help the macrophages work more efficiently,” he said. “According to our results, AmBi helped. In fact, the macrophages engulfed up to 3 to 4 times more than what they did on their own.”

While ground-breaking research is common in four-year university environments, Diamond’s participation in the AmBisome study was exceptional. After all, he is a biological sciences and applied mathematics major at a two-year college, and opportunities such as this one are rare for community college students.

Last year, Diamond and 35 other students from the Citrus College STEM Program had the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in scientific investigation as part of the Summer Research Experience (SRE). Participants are placed in cutting-edge university laboratories or other research sites, paired with a mentor, and tasked with working full-time for an average of eight weeks. Their involvement includes, among other things, conducting lab research and field work; identifying and reading scientific articles; public speaking, and participating in the life of a university.

Diamond spent his time at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly).

“The greatest highlight of my time at Citrus College thus far has been having the opportunity to conduct research at Cal Poly,” he said. “I saw how research can play a part in medicine and help the pursuit of wellness for others.”

Other research opportunities were available in the areas of biochemistry, botany, chemistry, engineering, geology/earth science, physics, mathematics, and more.

Students to STEM Careers

La Puente resident Waymon Ho took advantage of an opportunity in the discipline of computer science.

“I worked under Dr. Christopher Ryu at California State University, Fullerton,” the 20-year-old said. “My research involved video surveillance systems, which are mostly catered toward businesses. I was responsible for helping to develop a smaller scale alternative for the home or small businesses.”

Ho’s research involved learning how to apply motion detection to cameras, the majority of which were web-based. He also created and developed a computer software program capable of managing and controlling those cameras.

“The goal was to build a cost efficient and refined video surveillance system geared towards the personal security needs of the home or small business, without omitting advanced features,” he explained. “Being part of the program gave me the chance to deal with real life applications in a STEM-related field. It also led me to begin socializing with people who had similar interests. Together, we worked as a team to overcome obstacles.”

Dr. Marianne Smith, project director for Citrus College’s RACE to STEM, says that Ho’s experiences are similar to those of all SRE participants.

“Our students are consistently enthusiastic about their summer research and the opportunities they have to work alongside other graduate and undergraduate students and with university faculty mentors,” she said. “Students indicate that they benefit from both the actual research experiences and the learning that comes from those experiences, as well as from the opportunity to



Waymon Ho, Citrus College STEM Student

attend presentations, work in the university libraries, and grow their skills in a myriad of ways.”

To become part of this competitive program, participants must be members of the Citrus College STEM Academy, planning to transfer in a STEM major, and working towards finishing their first bachelor’s degree. They must have also completed a minimum of two STEM classes. A personal statement and two letters of recommendation from faculty members are among the items required as part of the application packet.

Once they are accepted into the program, students agree to make a full-time commitment and, in turn, they earn up to \$5,000 for their eight-week, full-time commitment.

At the conclusion of their SRE, students are required to create a poster summarizing their research that will then be presented at one or more research symposia.

Despite the program’s demands, Smith says that it is very popular.

“All of our former participants have indicated that, given the opportunity, they would participate in the Summer Research Experience again,” Smith said.

For Waymon Ho, this definitely proves true.

“My Summer Research Experience really motivated me to work hard to make a difference, both academically and professionally. It transformed my educational path,” he said. “I now realize the massive tasks that are required of you in a research field. It helped me learn to manage my time efficiently and work through complex situations by thinking outside of the box.”

“It was one of the most wonderful opportunities I could have had during my time at Citrus College,” he added.

Alumni News

Alumna Leads Local Bar Association Chapter

Ruth Lynn Estep has been elected president of the Santa Monica Bar Association (SMBA). The family law attorney, who is also chair of the association's Family Law Section, took the helm at SMBA's annual installation dinner last fall.

A graduate of Glendora High School, Estep took summer school classes at Citrus College during her high school years and continued to take classes after graduation. She transferred to Cal Poly Pomona, where she received a bachelor's degree and then attended Whittier Law School, where she earned a Juris Doctorate.

Estep has practiced law for 34 years. She is known and respected for her expertise in

representing children involved in high conflict custody litigation, and judges throughout Los Angeles County often seek her counsel. Estep is currently a partner in the Enenstein & Ribakoff law firm in Santa Monica. She is described as "well-known among her colleagues and clients for her high standards, integrity, willingness to accommodate her clients' needs, and for her caring and extremely personable nature."

The Citrus College alumna holds fond memories of the college. "Citrus was like a second home," she recalls. "Along with outstanding academics, there were so many wonderful community events like carnivals, football games and July 4th



Ruth Lynn Estep, Attorney and Citrus College Alumna

fireworks. Also, the arts programs held in the auditorium always had wonderful productions."

Alumni Couple Enjoys Retirement, Travel

Charles and Sharon (Stewart) Pickering recently provided an update on their lives after Citrus College.

Charles, class of 1956, graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in elementary education. He worked for 26 years as a checker for three supermarket chains and taught in the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District for 22 years.

Sharon, who attended Citrus College in the early 1970s, graduated from California State University, Los Angeles, where she majored in biology and minored in English. She earned a master's degree in biology from California State University, Dominguez Hills and taught in public and private schools. Sharon also held part-time research and student facilitator positions with the Herman Ostrow School of Dentistry at University of Southern California.

The Pickerings are the parents of a daughter, Deanna. As retirees, they now enjoy living in Palm Desert, traveling, and raising dachshunds.

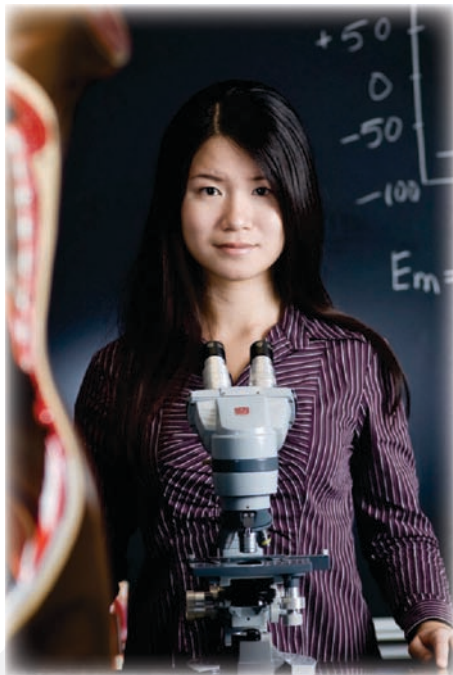


Attention Alumni!

Thank you for providing your updates and photos, which are of great value as we continue to expand and develop Alumni News. Continue to keep in touch! Please send your updates to alumni@citruscollege.edu or contact us at 626-914-8825.

Alumni Achiever

STEM Student Experiences Growth, Success



Dongning Zhang

In 2008, Citrus College introduced My Citrus Story, an initiative that provides accounts of alumni experiences during the time they spent as students at the college. Under the leadership of Dr. Samuel Lee, dean of language arts and enrollment management, these former students who represent several decades of the college's 98-year history, wrote personal narratives describing the impact Citrus College made on their lives.

One such student is Dongning Zhang. Zhang attended the college during the early days of the STEM Program and transferred to UCLA, where she received a B.A. in mathematics in 2011. She is currently a medical student at the University of Pittsburg.

My Citrus Story: Dongning Zhang

From one culture to another, there are many differences—some obvious and others more nuanced. When I came to the United States, to speak up was viewed by some as a cultural difference. To be sure, there were many people like me in high school in China who were quiet; the Chinese culture emphasizes modesty and humility. However, my inclination to be withdrawn was more than cultural; I was genuinely shy. When I was told after graduating from high school that I would have an opportunity to study in California, I was anxious, wondering if I could succeed in a place where everyone appeared confident and at ease.

Entering Citrus College proved to be a challenge on many fronts. While I grasped the concepts quickly, my ability to explain the process of solving chemistry problems lagged. I suppose I would have blamed my problems on the fact that English was my second language, but my real dilemma was rooted in shyness. When I noticed that there were other students who had overcome their timidity, I realized I could as well.

With the encouragement and help of professors, staff, and friends, I simply kept trying—and I didn't allow myself to hide in my comfort zone. In time, I became confident and more outspoken. After realizing that my communication skills were not as bad as I thought, I prospered. I began to

tutor other students in chemistry, biology, and mathematics. I even became a tutor for English 101. Eventually, I became a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program Supplemental Instruction leader for biology.

After two wonderful years at Citrus College, I transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles to complete my bachelor's degree in mathematics/applied science. The irony is that if my high school friends could see me now they wouldn't recognize me; their memories are of a quiet girl who never raised her hand in class.

Citrus College changed me profoundly and thoroughly, and I will always remember the kind people who stepped up and helped me.

Update: As a student at the University of Pittsburg School of Medicine, Dongning Zhang has successfully leveraged her mathematics and science abilities into research. In addition to her medical studies, the Citrus College alumna has co-authored several articles and presented at conferences on topics such as cellular and molecular engineering.

According to ResearchGate, a science and research social media website, Zhang's areas of interest include bioengineering, applied mathematics, and cognitive neuroscience. She also cites electron microscopy scanning, and several computer programming languages as her areas of expertise.

Zhang, who holds memberships in the American Medical Association and the American Physician Scientists Association, will receive her medical degree in 2016.

Foundation

President's Circle Breakfast Introduces Institute for Completion

The Citrus College Foundation began the year by hosting the President's Circle Breakfast, a first-time event that allowed current and prospective supporters the opportunity to meet with college officials and to learn about plans for the College of Completion initiative.

Local business and civic leaders met with Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D., members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and the Citrus College Foundation Board. Dr. Perri delivered a presentation that summarized the state of higher education in the United States, and emphasized the College of Completion initiative, Citrus College's response to President Barack Obama's 2010 challenge to increase the number of American college graduates by the year 2020.



President's Circle Breakfast attendees received information about the college's accomplishments and goals.

Dr. Perri also shared the college's vision for the Institute for Completion. The Institute will provide groundbreaking innovation and research that will enhance the development and implementation of programs to increase the number of Citrus College students who earn associate degrees, receive career/technical certificates, or transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Winter Reception Celebrates a Successful Year

Nearly 100 Citrus College officials, donors, supporters and friends gathered for the Foundation's Winter Reception. The annual event, which included a special performance by the Citrus Singers and attendance at the college's popular "Christmas Is. . ." musical, provided an enjoyable end to a successful year that established the President's Circle and increased support for the College of Completion initiative.

"The Winter Reception is always a great opportunity to showcase the college's stellar Performing Arts Program," said Chris Garcia, director of the foundation. "We are confident our guests will spread the word about



Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. (center) enjoys the 2013 Winter Reception with Associated Students of Citrus College officers (left to right) Alejandra Morales, vice president; Tyler Hernandez, president; Fariyah Chowdhury, student trustee-elect; and Daren Nguyen, senator.

Citrus College's programs and services and the work of the Foundation throughout their communities."

Employee Donors Engage in Active Philanthropy

Entrepreneur Eli Broad once defined philanthropy, as “being engaged, not only with your resources but (in) getting people and yourself really involved and doing things that haven’t been done before.”

A group of Citrus College Foundation donors personify Broad’s definition. In fall 2013, several college faculty and staff members established scholarships through a Citrus College Foundation employee giving campaign.

These new scholarships will be awarded to Citrus College students in August 2014.

The employee donation campaign included matching funds from the Citrus College Foundation that made it possible for the EOP&S/CARE staff to create the EOP&S/CARE Perseverance and Success Scholarship, a longtime goal of the department.

“When we learned about the matching funds from the Foundation, we thought this was a good time to establish a scholarship for our students,” says Sara Gonzales-Tapia, EOP&S/CARE and CalWORKs director. The EOP&S/CARE Perseverance and Success Scholarship is open to both continuing and transferring students. It will be awarded in August to an EOP&S/CARE student who has a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Scholarships established by Financial Aid Director Carol Thomas and the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (CalWORKs) staff honor the memory of family members and friends.

Thomas’ parents, Leon and Bobbie Thompson, faced several health issues during their lifetimes, including cancer. Yet, they did not allow these challenges to prevent them from being inspirational role models and living their lives to the fullest.

“They were selfless and giving individuals who always helped others who were in need,” Thomas recalls. “In spite of their illnesses, they remained positive.”

The Leon and Bobbie Thompson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a continuing student who has a 2.0 minimum GPA and is pursuing a course of study in the sciences or health occupations.

The CalWORKs staff chose to donate a scholarship in memory of a well-respected colleague, Mary Rome. Rome, an administrative clerk for the CalWORKs Program, passed away in 2011 after a three-month battle with cancer. The loss inspired her colleagues and friends to establish the CalWORKs Mary Rome Memorial Scholarship.

“Mary was known and loved by so many at Citrus,” Gonzales-Tapia recalls. “Not only was she a student here, she also worked in several departments on campus.”

The CalWORKs Mary Rome Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a CalWORKs student with a 3.0 GPA or higher who will continue their education at Citrus College or transfer to a four-year institution. The scholarship reflects the nature of the woman who inspired it.

“Mary valued the education she received at Citrus College and understood how important education was in her own life,” Gonzales-Tapia said. “It is only fitting that her legacy will live on through this scholarship.”



Director of Financial Aid Carol Thomas has established a scholarship in memory of her parents Bobbie and Leon Thompson, pictured here in 1959.



The EOP&S/CARE and CalWORKs staff founded two scholarships: the EOP&S/CARE Perseverance and Success Scholarship and the CalWORKs Mary Rome Memorial Scholarship.

Athletics

Science and Sports: The Choices of a Champion

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) occasionally runs a series of public service announcements reminding audiences that most student-athletes will “go pro” in areas other than sports. That fact could not be truer at the community college level, where few student-athletes will become professionals in their sport. Most will complete an associate degree, earn a career/technical certificate, or transfer to a four-year institution—all of which will benefit them throughout their lives.

Former Owl Audrianna Arceneaux is a perfect example of the student-athlete who is pursuing a major that will lead to a career other than professional athletics. Arceneaux attended Citrus College for two years, where she majored in biology and played on the highly successful 2011 and 2012 women’s soccer teams. She contributed to the team’s success and helped lead the Owls to a 24-11-6 record over those two seasons, including their first-ever playoff appearance in 2012, all while balancing her very demanding biology major.

“Being both an athlete and a full-time college student is demanding, and it requires a lot of time management,” Arceneaux commented. “It can add to the pressure, but if you can balance one rough semester in which you have classes and league games, it’s all okay.”

At Citrus College, Arceneaux was a two-time Scholar Baller™, a student-athlete who maintains a minimum 3.0 GPA. She currently attends the University of La Verne (La Verne) where she continues to major in biology and play soccer for the Leopards. Last fall, she started in 13 of their 21 contests.

Arceneaux believes she has not made any major changes in her study, practice and competition routines since transferring to La Verne. “There are still times when you’re doing last minute homework on the bus ride home after a game, but it’s worth the great



Audrianna Arceneaux, former Fighting Owl, is currently majoring in biology at the University of La Verne where she is a member of the women’s soccer team.

opportunity to play a collegiate sport.”

The former STEM Program student was not always sure she wanted to play sports at the college level, and majoring in biology was not always an option. Citrus College helped her examine and choose her path.

“I knew there were many career opportunities out there, and I wanted some time before making a decision. Citrus gave me that choice,” Arceneaux said. “Ultimately, I picked biology because science was the subject that always held my interest.”

Citrus College proved to be a good choice. “Citrus laid a really great foundation for me,” Arceneaux recalls. “The teachers were solid and they had a curriculum that fully prepared me for La Verne.”

Citrus College has a longstanding reputation for its STEM Program and is also known for the Athletics Department’s commitment to student-athletes’ academic achievement. Audrianna Arceneaux is an example of the effectiveness of both programs.

“My experience was truly exceptional. I had great professors and coaches. Citrus is a quality institution, and I would definitely recommend it to anyone wishing to play a sport while tackling a difficult major.”

**By Andrew Wheeler
and Paula Green**

Centennial

Countdown to the Celebration!

Citrus College will soon celebrate 100 years of academic excellence. In preparation for a year of festivities, the Centennial Committee, comprised of alumni, faculty and staff, are planning several events and programs that will highlight the college's legacy and accomplishments.

These activities will also provide opportunities for the college community to connect with alumni, other members of the community, and friends near and far.

The public Centennial kick off, the Open House and Homecoming

Celebration, will take place Saturday, October 11, 2014. There will be entertainment, food, historical and program displays, a car show, and more.

All Citrus College alumni are invited to enjoy the day on campus and participate in the All-Class Reunion. If you are a former Owl, please spread the word among your fellow classmates.

The fun-filled day ends with the Homecoming Game, which starts at 6:00 p.m. in the Stadium.



Citrus Junior College, 1960

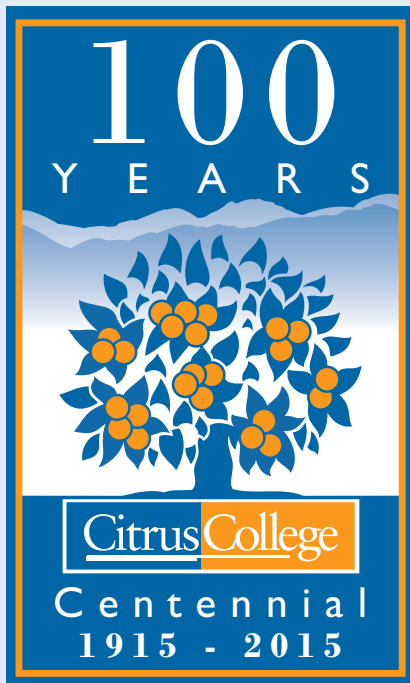


Louis E. Zellers Center for Innovation, 2008

Save the date!

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Open House and Centennial Homecoming Celebration



Join the party!

Volunteer to help staff an event!

alumni@citruscollege.edu or call 626-914-8825.

Campus



College Chosen to Compete for Prestigious Award

Citrus College is one of 150 community colleges in the nation, one of eight community colleges in California, and the only community college in Los Angeles County selected to compete for the \$1 million 2015 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

The Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. Its College Excellence Program awards the Aspen Prize every two years to an institution demonstrating exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

"Citrus College is honored to be recognized for its strong commitment to provide a high-quality education and foster success among every single one of our students," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "This recognition is truly a validation of the faculty and staff of Citrus College who work so diligently to support our students on their academic journeys."

In fall 2014, a selection committee of educators and higher education experts will narrow the field to 10 community colleges that will advance to the next round of the competition. The Institute will then visit the finalist institutions and collect information to be used to select the winner, finalists-with-distinction, and finalists in early 2015.

RISE Program Students Enter National Competitions

The college's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics program (STEM), has added an interdisciplinary research component that helps to prepare students to earn baccalaureate degrees and establish careers in the high-demand science and technology fields. Twenty students are participating in the new program, Research in Science & Engineering (RISE), where they have formed three teams and will compete in several of the nation's most prestigious science and technology events this spring.

In May, the Rocket Owls, comprised of physics students, will participate in NASA's Student Launch Project in Salt Lake City, Utah and in the ESRA (Experimental Sounding Rocket Association) Intercollegiate Rocketry Competition near Green River, Utah in June. The Space Owls, whose members are physics and recording technology students, will travel to Fairbanks, Alaska in August to send a weather balloon and recording device into the atmosphere with the intent of recording sounds emitted from the northern lights. The CAPE (Citrus Automotive Physics Eco-marathon) Owls, who are physics and automotive technology students, will design, build and drive an energy efficient car in the Shell Eco-marathon, an annual event held in Houston, Texas in late April.

Citrus College Foundation Receives Historical Document

In recognition of the college's Centennial in 2015, Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. received a framed ballot and narrative commemorating South Africa's first free, post-apartheid vote that elected Nelson Mandela as president. This gift of historical significance was donated by Dr. John Baker, Citrus College's former interim vice president of student services, who also established a scholarship to be awarded annually.

Dr. Perri said, "Thanks to Dr. Baker's wonderful gift, the college is fortunate to offer our students a unique opportunity to learn first-hand about the life of Nelson Mandela, whose legacy has been felt on a local and global scale," (Photo by Watchara Phomicinda/*San Gabriel Valley Tribune*)





New Trustee Joins Citrus College Board

Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson of Azusa is the newest member of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees and the board’s clerk/secretary. She represents the college’s Trustee Area 1, which is comprised of Azusa and portions of Duarte.

Dr. Dickerson was a member of the Azusa Unified School District Board of Education for eight years. She has more than 35 years of experience at all levels of education, including 25 years in higher education.

The longtime educator is the executive director of Neighborhood Homework House, a local nonprofit organization that helps at-risk Azusa students. She was honored as the 2007 YWCA Woman of Achievement in Education and the 2010 Woman of the Year for the 24th State Senate District.



Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Appointed

Claudette Dain, a veteran college administrator and certified public accountant, is Citrus College’s new vice president of finance and administrative services.

Prior to joining the Citrus College staff, Dain was the vice president of administrative services for Fullerton College and held management positions with the North Orange County Community College District. She also served as senior manager for the accounting firm Vicenti, Lloyd & Stutzman, LLP, where she was the lead auditor for Citrus College.

“Ms. Dain is an accomplished administrator who demonstrates a depth of knowledge that will optimize Citrus College’s standing as a leading institution of higher learning,” commented Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. “She is an excellent choice for this critical position.”



First-Year Student Advocates for Foster Youth

Josielyn (Josie) Mercado, a first-year Citrus College student and foster youth, was selected by the California Youth Connection (CYC) to attend the organization’s annual Day at the Capitol conference. CYC provides opportunities for foster youth to develop leadership and self-advocacy skills. During the two-day event, Mercado attended communications and policy workshops, and met with legislators to advocate for sibling visitation rights.

Mercado, an Azusa resident, is a graduate of Gladstone High School. She is actively involved in the college’s Foster/Kinship Care Education program as a student worker, and she serves as a peer mentor for the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success program. Mercado is also an honor student who plans to become a registered nurse and a physician’s assistant.

First, Citrus College Next, University of La Verne

Cynthia Rodriguez

I enrolled at Citrus College because I wanted to be in an environment where I could meet new people. I stayed there because I loved it. The people were friendly and encouraging, and I had the pleasure of learning from amazing instructors. I completed my general education requirements while taking classes that helped solidify my choice for my major. I also made the Dean's List and the President's List.

I believe I am a Citrus College success story because, although I was often unclear about my future, I received advice from counselors and faculty that helped me with my educational decisions. I plan to become a Cognitive Behavioral Therapist and help people feel better about their lives.

If I had the choice to go back in time and enroll somewhere else, I would still choose Citrus College. Thanks to the wonderful people there, I am a better person.



Cynthia Rodriguez
Class of 2013



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visit www.citruscollege.edu/foundation