An incredible amount of hard work is being accomplished at Citrus College every day. Whether it is a student completing a detailed lab assignment, an instructor preparing lessons for the next day’s classes, or a staff member sharing their knowledge with others, there are always exciting things happening that lead our students down the path to college completion.

In this issue of the Citrus View, you will learn about Citrus College’s accomplishments, student successes, and exciting campus events. Of course, none of these would be possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff.

As we continue examining our 100-year history of educational excellence, it is evident that this institution has been shaped, in large part, by the many dedicated professionals who have served it throughout the years. Thank you for being one of those individuals.

Sincerely,

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President

Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen
Member
Glendora and portions of San Dimas Representative

Ms. Farihah Chowdhury
Student Representative

Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson
Clerk/Secretary
Azusa and portions of Duarte Representative

Mrs. Susan M. Keith
Vice President
Claremont and portions of Pomona and La Verne Representative

Dr. Edward C. Ortell
Member
Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale Representative

Mrs. Joanne Montgomery
President
Monrovia/Bradbury and portions of Duarte Representative

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Superintendent/President

Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees

THE CITRUS COLLEGE COMMUNITY RECENTLY LEARNED ABOUT THE INSTITUTION’S ONGOING ACCREDITATION PROCESS.
Fulbright Scholar Discusses Issues in Ukraine

The Citrus College Office of Academic Affairs and the Citrus College Foundation were proud to welcome Natalia Borysenko, Ph.D., for a special presentation entitled “Ukraine Today: People’s Hopes, Expectations, and Reality” on Thursday, March 12, 2015.

Currently the resident Fulbright scholar at Washington State University in Pullman, Borysenko served as a guest lecturer at Citrus College. The purpose of her presentation was to provide insight into the current conflict occurring in the Ukraine.

Although the region’s turmoil dates back several decades, the most recent difficulties began in November 2013 when the Ukrainian President rejected a deal for greater integration with the European Union, sparking mass protests among the nation’s citizens.

While Russia backed the Ukrainian president, the United States and the rest of Europe backed the protestors. Several months later, the country’s government was toppled. In response, Russia invaded and annexed the Crimea, a region located in southern Ukraine.

In August 2014, the situation escalated even further when the Russian army invaded eastern Ukraine. Since that time, the relationship between Russia and the western world has been deteriorating. In fact, sanctions have been placed on Russia, its economy is faltering, and Ukrainian casualties are mounting.

“The only hope young people have is to leave,” Borysenko said.

A Citrus College student in attendance asked Borysenko how American citizens could help aid Ukrainians.

“Sending money won’t help because of the corruption in the region,” she responded.

“It would be helpful if the United States thought critically about the situation. As students, you need to work hard and develop your country.”

Borysenko also said that Americans can learn from the situation in Eastern Europe. Among those important lessons to take away from the conflict is the need to think about the future every day, be aware of what we have, acknowledge different opinions, and find every opportunity to use what you have, including your mind and body.

“You are very fortunate to be in the United States,” she told students. “Benefit from what you have and share your successes.”

College Observed Unique Holiday During Early Years

Citrus College has always been a busy place. In addition to academic instruction, a wide variety of activities and events have regularly taken place on campus throughout the past one hundred years. During the college’s first several decades, however, one unique holiday had the ability to halt all college business.

Located in southern Los Angeles County, the San Gabriel River has long been a popular recreational destination. The river’s fishing opportunities were a particular draw for Citrus College students in the institution’s early years.

According to former college president Glenn Vaniman, the institution’s proximity to the river led to an increase in student truancy on one specific day every spring.

“The kids were close to the mountains and most of them were from families that were ranchers and the like,” he said in an interview with author Alfred Paul Clark in the book Citrus Speaks. “The kids liked to go up and fish. So, when May 1st came along, they’d cut out of school and go and fish.”

This date was significant because it marked the beginning of open fishing season.

“We’d all go fishing up in the canyon,” remembered former student Melvin Shorey in Citrus Speaks. “We would catch trout. That was the only kind of fish there in the canyon.”

After noticing an annual trend and experiencing a consistent loss in ADA (average daily attendance) funding from the state, Dr. Floyd S. Hayden, the institution’s president at the time, found a solution.

“Dr. Hayden saw that they were losing [a lot of money],” Vaniman remembered. “So, he said ‘Fellows, I’ll make a proposition with you. If you wait and go [during the first weekend of May] rather than the first day, we’ll have a half day-session [that Friday] and we will all go fishing.’ So, we did that and it [was known as] Fish Day.”

This special Citrus College holiday remained in effect for several decades. However, as the region changed and student interests evolved, Fish Day became less popular, and the tradition eventually ended, but it remains a fun footnote in the institution’s history.
Students Honor Society Students Contribute to Groundbreaking Medical Research

Citrus College members of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK)—the national honor society for community college students—recently explored new frontiers in the medical world and presented their research during the Honors Transfer Council of California Undergraduate Research Conference held at the University of California, Irvine.

The PTK research group studied new developments in medical research on the anti-aging enzyme, telomerase. Utilizing the expertise of Citrus College faculty and staff, and Nobel Prize winner and telomerase expert Elizabeth Blackburn, Ph.D., the researchers set out to determine the potential of telomerase to extend the human life span and the effects of an extended human lifetime on global resources, economics, and demographics. In addition, the researchers surveyed more than 500 Citrus College students on their opinions about the effects of life extension.

The students’ final report, “Searching for the Fountain of Youth: An Inquiry on the Enzyme Telomerase,” found that telomerase has significant potential to lengthen lives, and that humans may have the ability to live into their mid-100s in the future.

“Presenting research to other scholars is an exciting experience for the students, and signifies a high level of accomplishment.”

Brian Waddington
Honors Transfer Coordinator

Recording Artist Praises Student Musicians

Melissa Manchester’s newest album, You Gotta Love the Life, is the Grammy award-winning performer and songwriter’s 20th album in a career that spans more than 40 years. The recording of the album was done at Citrus College, where Manchester is an honorary artist in residence.

Manchester said of the experience, “I was given the great gift of recording at Citrus College Studio A. This studio is one of the best kept secrets around Los Angeles. Our engineer, Tim Jaquette, is the supervising professor in the Recording Arts Department. Therefore, the sessions became a kind of teaching experience in real time for his students. They were often around — engrossed, eager and engaged...”

During recording, Manchester and Terry Wollman, the album’s co-producer, made use of the talents of the Citrus Singers, who backed her on “I Know Who I Am,” a song she co-wrote with Leona Lewis several years ago that was previously featured in the 2010 Tyler Perry film, For Colored Girls. Manchester is joined on the album by several music legends, such as Stevie Wonder, Dave Koz, Lenny Castro, Keb ‘Mo’, Al Jarreau, Joe Sample and Dionne Warwick.

Manchester later commented that working with students who are studying to be musicians and engineers added to the creative process and inspired a “deep, mature musical conversation.”

You Gotta Love the Life was released in February 2015.

Recording Artist Praises Student Musicians

Honor Society Students Contribute to Groundbreaking Medical Research

During recording, Manchester and Terry Wollman, the album’s co-producer, made use of the talents of the Citrus Singers, who backed her on “I Know Who I Am,” a song she co-wrote with Leona Lewis several years ago that was previously featured in the 2010 Tyler Perry film, For Colored Girls. Manchester is joined on the album by several music legends, such as Stevie Wonder, Dave Koz, Lenny Castro, Keb ‘Mo’, Al Jarreau, Joe Sample and Dionne Warwick.

Manchester later commented that working with students who are studying to be musicians and engineers added to the creative process and inspired a “deep, mature musical conversation.”

You Gotta Love the Life was released in February 2015.

Honor Society Students Contribute to Groundbreaking Medical Research

The students’ final report, “Searching for the Fountain of Youth: An Inquiry on the Enzyme Telomerase,” found that telomerase has significant potential to lengthen lives, and that humans may have the ability to live into their mid-100s in the future.

“Presenting research to other scholars is an exciting experience for the students, and signifies a high level of accomplishment.” said Brian Waddington, history instructor and honors transfer coordinator who helped facilitate the project. “This sparks pride in their work and a motivation to excel after they leave Citrus College.”
The Citrus College Foundation and the Financial Aid Office will be awarding over 100 scholarships to students for the 2015-2016 academic year—and they need your help!

The deadline to submit scholarship applications is midnight on Thursday, April 2, 2015. Citrus College faculty and staff are asked to encourage all students to submit an application on http://citruscollege.academicworks.com. When applying, it is not necessary for students to submit separate applications for each scholarship they are interested in. Instead, their data is automatically screened for eligibility and matched to specific opportunities.

In addition to encouraging students to apply, faculty and staff volunteers are being asked to assist in the award selection process. Volunteers will be tasked with reading, evaluating, and scoring applications.

The timeline for reading scholarships will be Friday, April 3 through Friday, May 1. Volunteers will have the ability to review applications online, and each volunteer will be assigned a certain number of applications to read. This number will be determined by the quantity of applications submitted and the total number of readers who volunteer.

According to the Financial Aid Office, the spring 2014 volunteers reviewed approximately 30 to 50 applications.

“We are excited that some faculty and staff have already expressed interest in participating,” said Carol Thomas, Citrus College director of financial aid. “We are also looking forward to welcoming back many of those who participated in the process last year.”

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer reader during the scholarship selection process, please contact Katrina Hewitt at khewitt@citruscollege.edu.

The Degree Works Implementation Team has become a well-oiled machine.”

JOYCE MIYABE
ERP Coordinator

Records, Curriculum, Career Technical Education, and Technology and Computer Services. The group was responsible for defining how this new technology would look and feel at Citrus College.

“The Degree Works Implementation Team has become a well-oiled machine,” Miyabe said.

Citrus College’s knowledge of the technology hasn’t gone unnoticed. In fact, Ellucian, the corporate owner of Banner and Degree Works, recently asked Miyabe to share her expertise at a March 2015 conference for the Chief Information Systems Officers Association.

Miyabe’s presentation, entitled “Degree Works: Marriage of IT and Counseling,” highlighted how college counselors and IT departments can work together to give students meaningful and consistent direction, as well as provide counselors with up-to-date curriculum information by using Degree Works.

“This product has become an important tool for counselors,” Miyabe said.

When Citrus College introduced new technology to help students track their progress towards college completion last year, a great deal of time and effort was invested into the process. The implementation of Degree Works, an addition to the Banner Wing Span package, was a monumental undertaking that included upgrading the definition of majors and defining the requirements for certificates and degrees.

At the helm of this important project was Joyce Miyabe, enterprise resource project (ERP) coordinator. She led the 11-member team of representatives from Counseling, Admissions and

During the implementation of Degree Works, Miyabe, enterprise resource project (ERP) coordinator, led a team of representatives from several departments to ensure that the new technology was integrated smoothly into the college’s operations.

Joyce Miyabe, Citrus College ERP Coordinator, recently made a presentation entitled “DegreeWorks: Marriage of IT and Counseling” at a conference for the Chief Information Systems Officers Association.

When Citrus College introduced new technology to help students track their progress towards college completion last year, a great deal of time and effort was invested into the process. The implementation of Degree Works, an addition to the Banner Wing Span package, was a monumental undertaking that included upgrading the definition of majors and defining the requirements for certificates and degrees.

At the helm of this important project was Joyce Miyabe, enterprise resource project (ERP) coordinator. She led the 11-member team of representatives from Counseling, Admissions and
Event Seeks to Find Homes for Children

Last month, Citrus College hosted a special event designed to encourage community members to consider participating in the foster care and/or adoption process.

Sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in partnership with the cities of Glendora, Azusa, Duarte, and West Covina, the “Our Cities Have a Heart for Children Who Need a Home” event was held in the Citrus College Campus Center on February 21, 2015. Citrus College, Kidsave, Raise a Child, Bienvenidos, and America’s Christian Credit Union were also event sponsors.

The college’s involvement began when Azusa Mayor Joe Rocha, former Glendora councilmember Joe Santoro, and West Covina Mayor Frederick Sykes approached Lil Sass, the coordinator of the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Education and Resource Programs. “We were invited to participate in this event because of our strong and well-known programs in the areas of foster and kinship care,” she said.

More than 100 people from the community attended the event, which featured a panel of experts designed to provide insight into the fostering and adoption process. There were also special vendors and opportunities to meet with representatives from the DCFS.

“We wanted to provide guests with a look at what they could expect if they made the decision to foster or adopt,” Sass explained. “They had the opportunity to meet with our vendors and to speak with the DCFS about all of the supportive services they would receive if they chose to become foster or adoptive parents.”

A highlight of the event, however, was an appearance by Citrus College student Jose Juarez, who discussed his experiences in the foster care system.

“When Jose first started stopping by our foster youth lounge, he was a quiet and reserved student,” Sass said. “It was so inspiring to see him get out of his comfort zone, tell his personal story, and share a poem he had written with those in attendance. It was such a huge step for him and, afterwards, others approached him and asked him to share his experiences at other events.”

Local Leaders Tour Citrus College

Officials and community leaders from the city of Azusa visited Citrus College on Wednesday, February 4, as part of a continued practice to showcase Citrus College programs and services to the leaders within our district.

The event, “Azusa Day at Citrus College,” was the fourth in a series designed to focus on each specific city served by the Citrus Community College District. It involved representatives from Azusa’s governmental, educational and volunteer sectors receiving an in-depth tour of several Citrus College programs. It also highlighted stories of student success.

Hosted by Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri and Trustee Barbara R. Dickerson, “Azusa Days” provided guests with the opportunity to visit the Administration Building, Hayden Memorial Library, Center for Innovation, Haugh Performing Arts Center, Student Services Building, and the Fine Arts Complex construction site. The event also included detailed presentations about the STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics) Program; Cosmetology, Esthetician, and Automotive programs; and the Veterans Success Program.

“It was an honor to host these influential leaders of Azusa,” said Dr. Perri. “They were very impressed with all of the programs and services that they saw and learned about.”