Holiday Season Provides Time for Reflection, Celebration

A popular song famously proclaims the holiday season as “the most wonderful time of the year.” There are several reasons this could be considered true for Citrus College. In addition to the traditional festivities the season affords, this month also signifies the end to another successful semester.

As fall 2017 draws to a close and the holidays approach, we have the opportunity to reflect on our progress, celebrate our successes and plan for the future. The events and achievements highlighted in this issue of the Citrus View are just a few examples of why this has been a year worth celebrating at Citrus College.

Of course, the main reason 2017 has been so wonderful is you: Citrus College’s faculty, staff, students and supporters have made its many successes possible. I am grateful for your dedication, and I look forward to the great work we will accomplish together in the months ahead.

Best wishes for health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year. Have a joyful holiday season!

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President

Citrus College Hosts Ceremony to Honor Veterans

Held every year during the week of Veterans Day, Saluting Our Veterans continues Citrus College’s long history of recognizing veterans within the community. On Nov. 8, the college, in partnership with Azusa Pacific University (APU) and the cities of Azusa and Glendora, hosted this special event for the 12th year in a row.

The ceremony began with a prelude of patriotic music performed by the Gladstone High School marching band. Following the performance, Citrus Singers Christian Blass, Israel Lacy and Christian Pineda performed the national anthem. After a moment of silence for fallen veterans, the Valley Veterans Memorial Team conducted a flag-folding ceremony accompanied by a three-volley salute.

Dr. Martha McDonald, the vice president of student services at Citrus College and a Marine, introduced 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.

Special guests this year included Senator Anthony Portantino and Assemblymember Blanca E. Rubio, as well as an entire fourth grade class from Powell Elementary School in Azusa. Their teacher, Patty Abalo, is Capt. Abalo’s mother. She and Principal Jennifer Wiebe walked the students to Citrus College in order to pay tribute to her son.

U.S. Army veteran Celia Alvarado, a former Citrus College student and current APU student, introduced 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.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Martin Hernandez Barajas, a current Citrus College and APU student, shared their stories of success with the audience. The event concluded with Citrus College’s musical group Night Shift performing “God Bless the USA.”

“At Citrus College, we are committed to recognizing both student veterans and veterans from the community,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “Thank you for your service, courage and commitment to our country.”
On Oct. 12, students gathered on the Campus Center Mall to meet with representatives from more than 50 four-year colleges and universities from across the nation at the annual Fall Transfer Fair.

Booths lined the walkway, and students collected brochures and participated in fun giveaways. Most importantly, they were given the opportunity to seek advice and gain invaluable information on how and when to transfer to the four-year institutions of their choice.

Representatives from local universities, such as the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of Southern California; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and California State University, Long Beach, were in attendance.

“For students preparing to transfer, the Fall Transfer Fair is an exciting opportunity to speak face to face with reps from their favorite institutions,” said Jessica López Jiménez, director of student support services at Citrus College. “For new and returning students, this event shows students that their dreams are not as far away as they may seem. It propels them along the path to completion.”

Students talk about their educational goals with visiting reps from four-year colleges and universities on the Campus Center Mall.

On Oct. 12, more than 200 high school students and their parents received help completing federal and state financial aid paperwork during an October workshop hosted by the Citrus College Financial Aid Office.

According to Carol Thomas, director of financial aid, students from approximately 34 different high schools were in attendance.

“Students really appreciate the opportunity to meet representatives from the colleges and universities they have always dreamed about attending,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “It helps them visualize their goals, and it motivates them to continue building toward greater success.”
Nineteen student representatives from the Citrus College Clarion newspaper and Logos magazine participated in the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) SoCal Conference on Oct. 14 at California State University, Fullerton.

The Citrus College delegation won 17 individual awards – 15 for work published in the Clarion and Logos during the 2016-2017 school year and two from on-site contests that were held during the conference.

Additionally, the Clarion website, www.ccclarion.com, and Logos magazine both received “General Excellence” recognition. This is the highest overall recognition a publication can receive at the JACC level, and it encompasses design, photography and writing.

**Publication contest winners**

- Front page layout: Megan Bender, first place
- Webcast/broadcast news: Erik Adams and Robert Delgado, second place
- Feature story: Rosi Di Stefano, second place
- Magazine opinion article: Batool Jaffer, second place
- Sports action photo: Edward Ramirez, second place
- Magazine news feature: James Duffy, third place
- Informational graphic: Sabrina Gonzalez, third place
- Online photo essay: Sabrina Gonzalez, third place
- Editorial cartoon: Emily Hermosillo, third place
- Column writing: Xela Quintana, third place
- Video journalism: Brianna Sewell and Jessica Sosa, third place
- Photo illustration: Kevin Alvarez, Megan Bender and Andrew Ortega, fourth place
- Inside page layout: Cheyenne Falcon and John Michaelides, fourth place
- Magazine profile article: Darius Johari, fourth place
- Magazine illustration: Evan Solano, fourth place

**On-site contest winners**

- News writing: Emily Hermosillo, fourth place
- News photo: Megan Bender, honorable mention

“This was an exciting week for all of us in the Citrus College communication program,” said Patrick Schmiedt, Clarion advisor. “On behalf of fellow faculty member Meg O’Neil, our adjunct instructors, Stacy Long and Waleed Rashidi, and all of the students involved with the Clarion and Logos, I would like to thank the college community for its continued support.”

Visual and performing arts faculty member John Vaughan shares tips during the Nov. 14 student engagement session.

Citrus College is comprised of individuals with backgrounds ranging from first-generation college attendees to student veterans. Knowing how to engage students using a variety of approaches is essential to gaining success in the classroom.

“Serving a diverse student body presents the challenge of learning how to most effectively engage each person in the classroom,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “These sessions offer faculty members an invaluable opportunity to learn from their peers’ experiences, as well as add new techniques to their repertoires. This series is successful because it informs the entire college community about the challenges faculty members face, and it outlines the ways we can best support them.”

Three different faculty members will be selected to lead the student engagement series for the spring semester.
For more than 45 years, the Haugh Performing Arts Center at Citrus College has provided the community with a comfortable and inviting environment in which to enjoy an ever-expanding selection of college, community and professional performances. At the helm of this 1,400-seat venue is Tiina Mittler, the facility’s new director.

A skilled manager with more than 20 years of experience in live theater, Ms. Mittler is responsible for art direction and operations management at the Haugh. She joined the visual and performing arts team in October, and is excited to oversee the more than 200 performances that are held in the facility every year.

“The opportunity to craft experiences that connect students with professional artists, while bringing a regional audience to the campus, is nothing short of exhilarating,” she said. “I feel privileged to join the incredible Visual and Performing Arts Department at Citrus College, and I hope to offer experiences that will enhance the learning and professional development of our students.”

Ms. Mittler comes to Citrus College from the Curtis Theatre at the Brea Civic & Cultural Center, where she served as the theater manager. In this position, she was responsible for the curation, development, marketing and operations of 12 successful seasons of performing arts and community events.

This extensive professional experience will serve Ms. Mittler well in the weeks ahead, as she leads the Haugh’s staff in hosting a variety of holiday performances, including the popular, awe-inspiring musical, Christmas Is, and the theatre arts production, Naughty vs. Nice: The Case of the Missing List.

“There are those students who have served in the military and are transitioning back to civilian life often face unique challenges. However, they also have a lot to contribute to the college community,” said Dr. Martha McDonald, vice president of student services. “Being named a Military Friendly School shows that Citrus College understands the magnitude of the responsibility it has in serving this important group, and that it is working to meet the needs of these students as effectively and efficiently as possible.”

Approximately 500 students are served annually by the Citrus College Veterans Success Center. In addition to providing students with computers and quiet rooms for studying, the Veterans Success Center offers academic counseling, financial aid assistance, mental health services and more.

“Citrus College is deeply committed to helping student veterans,” said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College. “To once again be included on this list of Military Friendly Schools affirms all the college has done to create an environment in which members of the military can thrive.”

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