

CITRUS

COLLEGE MAGAZINE



CAREER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
GETTING THE JOB DONE!

2017 • ISSUE ONE

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

Redefining Education



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

As Citrus College embarks on the first year of its 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, it is the perfect time to introduce a fresh new look for Citrus College Magazine.

The first 2017 issue of Citrus College Magazine focuses on career technical education (CTE), and the words “fresh” and “new” describe every page of this publication. From a virtual tour of the college’s newest state-of-the-art facility, the Visual Arts Building, to the first international production by the college’s theatre arts program, every article reflects the brilliance, innovation and success-oriented creativity of the Citrus College community.

While I am certain you will find the Associated Students of Citrus College’s new mentorship initiative and the values of the Fighting Owls football program to be inspiring, CTE is the star of this publication.

Once called “vocational education,”

CTE is experiencing a resurgence of popularity and support. Projections for California over the next 10 years reflect thousands of job openings in fields like health informatics and home health care; protective services; engineering; industrial technologies; and information technology. Jobs in these fields pay well, and workers are in high demand.

CTE at Citrus College evolved from a program that offered night classes in bookkeeping, typing and cabinetmaking in the 1920s, to one that offers 32 certificates, 17 skill awards and 17 associate degrees in fields as diverse as nursing, automotive technology and emerging theatre technologies. Much of the CTE program’s success can be attributed to the fact that it continually renews and reinvents itself, as evidenced by the recent addition of certificates and associate degrees in the rapidly expanding field of biotechnology.

Responding to workforce needs is critical to any CTE offering, but the most exciting aspect of Citrus College’s CTE programs is that students are achieving an amazing level of success. This past year, Citrus College excelled among California community colleges for its outstanding percentage of students who completed their CTE goals.

This is an impressive distinction that I attribute to the hard work of our faculty and staff who guide the many programs that facilitate our students’ success. My own career is deeply rooted in vocational education and the community college system. As with my experience, CTE students have the opportunity to take the skills they acquire and quickly begin a career or continue their pursuit of higher education toward a path far beyond what they initially imagined for themselves.

I would like to express the college’s appreciation to all of the dedicated faculty, staff and students who continually strive to keep Citrus College on the leading edge of innovation.

I hope you will be inspired and motivated to learn more about Citrus College as you enjoy the 2017 premiere issue of Citrus College Magazine. ●

“THIS PAST YEAR, CITRUS COLLEGE EXCELLED AMONG CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOR ITS OUTSTANDING PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO COMPLETED THEIR CTE GOALS.”

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Citrus College MAGAZINE

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ISSUE ONE | Career Technical Education

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AWARDS & ACCOLADES

Committed to Excellence



STEM Jobs
Recognized among the top 125 out of 1,600 U.S. colleges and universities as a STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) Jobs Approved College.



Aspen Prize
Nominated, for the second consecutive time, for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Awarded every two years, it is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges.



San Gabriel Valley News Group Reader's Choice Awards
Distinguished as the region's "Favorite College" and "Favorite Career College."

BROOKINGS

Brookings Institution Recognition
Placed sixth in California for "value added" factor – the difference between the actual mid-career salary of alumni, and an estimation of what a graduate of a similar college would have earned.



Chancellor's Student Success Award
One of only two California community colleges to receive this award. The college was recognized for its Summer Research Experience that provides opportunities for STEM students to conduct research at prestigious universities and research institutes.



The Campaign for College Opportunity
Named "Champion for Higher Education" for awarding associate degrees for transfer (ADT). Ranked seventh among California's 113 community colleges for ADT production.



G.I. Jobs
Designated a Military Friendly School for the seventh consecutive year.



The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
Ranked #1 in nation for awarding the highest number of associate degrees in fine and performing arts to Hispanic students.



The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education
Ranked 12th out of 1,200 U.S. community colleges for the number of associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students.



PayScale Honor
Recognized as one of the nation's top-10 public two-year colleges based on alumni earning potential, and fifth among California's 113 community colleges in this category.



Education Winners Community College – Gold
Identified as one of the best educational facilities in the San Gabriel Valley.



Top 100 Degree Producers
Named a Top 100 associate degree producer by CCWeek, which highlights colleges that have enrollments that are on the rise.

Citrus College's mission can be encompassed in four words: "student success and completion." Whatever the student's goal – associate degree, transfer or career advancement – Citrus College is a one-stop shop 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 beacon in Southern California. We've earned acknowledgments for outstanding faculty and staff, student assistance 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. ●

THE NEW VISUAL ARTS BUILDING

A Photo Tour



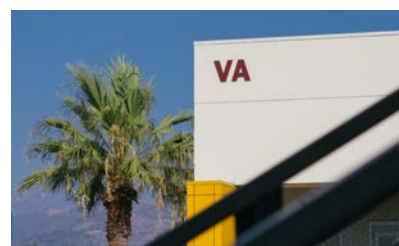
The much-anticipated Visual Arts Building was dedicated on Sept. 6, 2016. Adding nearly 37,000 square feet of educational space to the college, the \$19-million project features studios equipped for drawing, painting, printmaking, digital design, animation, mixed media, photo and video production, a 150-seat lecture hall, an art gallery, computer labs, a ceramics lab, faculty offices, and a space for Citrus College's student newspaper, the Clarion.

The festive dedication included remarks by Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College, Board of Trustees Member Mrs. Susan M. Keith and Ms. Claudette E. Dain, vice president of finance and administrative services. After the ribbon-cutting, guests were invited to tour the sprawling three-story facility, and visit classrooms that now house Citrus College's rapidly expanding arts programs.

"The Visual Arts Building is an example of Measure G dollars at work, and I thank the members of our communities for supporting the bond in 2004," Trustee Keith said. "I also express my heartfelt gratitude to our elected officials from all levels of government and our partners in education for their steadfast support of Citrus College."

With the debut of the building, the visual and performing arts program builds upon its reputation for being a leader in arts education. For over 100 years, Citrus College has created a legacy of student success and academic excellence. As the newest extension of this legacy, the extraordinary Visual Arts Building is sure to have a lasting impact on generations to come.

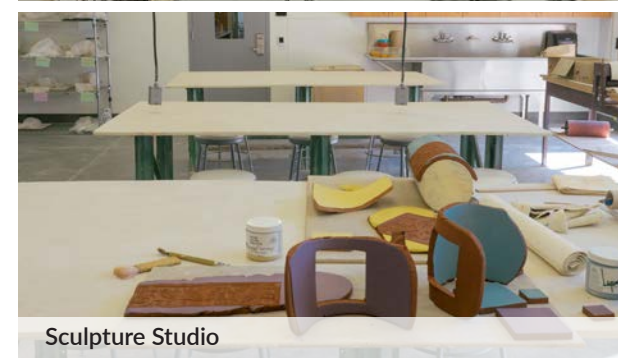
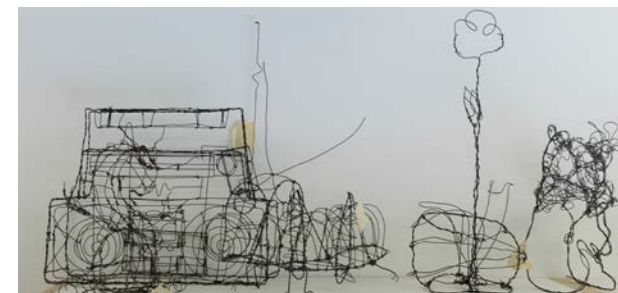
We are proud to showcase Citrus College's beautiful and contemporary new building. Enjoy the tour! ●



Dr. Perri and members of the board of trustees participated in the dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the college's new \$19-million Visual Arts Building.



Ceramics Lab



Sculpture Studio



Digital Media Lab

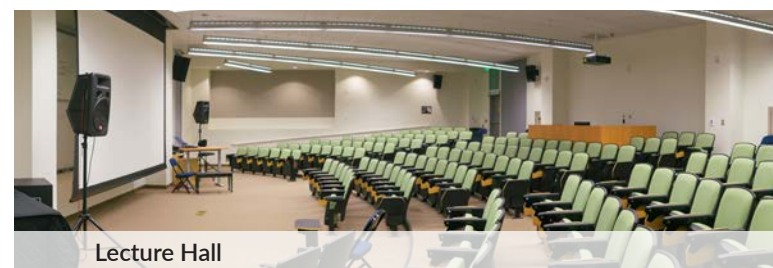


150-seat Lecture Hall

"I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THE FUTURE ARTISTS WHO WILL BE EDUCATED IN THIS VERY FACILITY."
 — Geraldine Perri, Ph.D.,
 Superintendent/President of Citrus College



Painting Studio



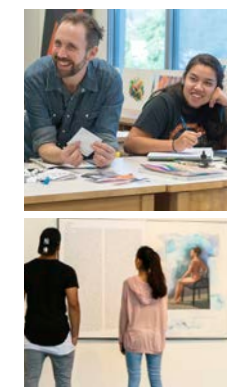
Lecture Hall



The Clarion's Newsroom



Drawing Studio



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

BY STACY ARMSTRONG

The governing boards and presidents of the nation's community colleges are responsible for creating environments where learning thrives. They juggle various responsibilities, fill many roles, and are expected to inspire, innovate and meet the demands of multiple constituencies.

Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College, and the members of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees frequently engage in varied advocacy efforts on behalf of the college. In addition to providing direction and leadership on campus, they represent the college and its interests in the local community, and across the state and nation. Here are a few highlights from recent months:



Dr. Perri and the board of trustees stand with Assemblymember Chris Holden, center, at the 2016 Citrus College Convocation event.

MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

In January, Dr. Perri, Board of Trustees President Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson, Vice President Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, Clerk/Secretary Mrs. Joanne Montgomery and Board Member Mrs. Susan M. Keith met with several legislators in the state capitol. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the impact of Governor Brown's proposed budget for 2017-2018, as well as new legislation that was introduced for the 2017-2018 biennial session.

During their meetings with Senator Anthony Portantino, Assemblymember Blanca Rubio and Assemblymember Chris Holden, the Citrus College delegation discussed a variety of topics, including the need to provide Cal Grants that better serve community college students. While in Sacramento, they also attended the Community College League of California's (CCLC) annual legislative conference, which provided an opportunity to meet with community college leaders from across the state and hear from experts regarding important and emerging issues in higher education.

"Meeting with education professionals and our colleagues from other California community colleges at CCLC's annual legislative conference was a wonderful opportunity to learn about trends in community college education, and to share best practices," said Trustee Dickerson. "It was also a great chance to meet personally with the college's new and returning elected officials and provide them with an update on Citrus College."



INFORMING THE COMMUNITY

Trustee Montgomery and Trustee Rasmussen joined Dr. Perri in welcoming community members and business leaders to Citrus College for a special event hosted by the Citrus College Foundation during the fall semester. Community Day at Citrus College provided the public with the opportunity to tour the campus and hear presentations from faculty and staff.

The first of two such events scheduled for the 2016-2017 academic year, Community Day at Citrus College, included a presentation from Dr. Perri regarding the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan and its key components. Guests also received information about the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program, the Institute for Completion, the Veterans Success Center, career technical education, the Haugh Performing Arts Center and campus facilities.

"The support of our district communities is vital to the successful fulfillment of the college's goal to increase student success and completion," said Trustee Rasmussen. "I extend my sincere appreciation to the Foundation for organizing Community Day at Citrus College. Events such as this one help promote the great things happening at the college, and I look forward to more in the future."



CELEBRATING THE FOUNDATION

The Citrus College Foundation rolled out the red carpet in November 2016 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. More than 300 guests joined Dr. Perri and the board of trustees as they commemorated the Foundation's long history of fostering partnerships, recognizing philanthropic involvement, and providing scholarships and resources to help students meet their educational goals.

The celebration, Spotlight on Citrus, was held in the courtyard of the new Visual Arts Building, and provided Citrus College with the opportunity to thank donors, alumni, community members and employees who have invested in the lives of students over the past five decades.

"This memorable event was a fitting tribute to the important work of the Citrus College Foundation," said Trustee Montgomery. "The organization has nurtured relationships that have helped advance student success for the last 50 years, and I am certain they will continue to change lives well into the future."



EMBRACING THE "BRAIN TRAIN"

The successful completion of the Metro Gold Line to the APU/Citrus College Station has been, in part, due to Citrus College's advocacy efforts, led by its board of trustees. For more than a decade, board members, students and college leaders took the message of access to higher education made possible by the "Brain Train" to the Metro board room in downtown Los Angeles, the state capitol in Sacramento and the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C. This was part of an effort to ensure students would have convenient, cost-effective transportation to more than a dozen colleges and universities that are located along the Gold Line.

Last October, Dr. Perri participated in the Foothill Gold Line State of the Project 2016 panel titled, "The Brain Train's Influence on Higher Education," held at Pomona College in Claremont. Joining Dr. Perri on the panel were representatives from the Claremont University Consortium; the ArtCenter College of Design in Pasadena; and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. The event was part of a landmark year for the Foothill Extension of the Gold Line, which also included the line's official opening from Pasadena to Azusa on March 5, and the opening of the Citrus Avenue extension on Sept. 19.

"Citrus College played a significant role in completing the Gold Line to the APU/Citrus College Station," said Board of Trustees Member Dr. Edward C. Ortell. "The advocacy efforts of the board of trustees, students, faculty and college staff have ensured that students from throughout the region will have convenient, affordable access to higher education for generations to come." ●

Citrus College congressional representatives joined Dr. Perri at the Foothill Gold Line State of the Project 2016 event. Pictured (L-R): Rep. Grace Napolitano (CA-32), Rep. Norma Torres (CA-35), Dr. Perri, and Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27).



DREAM WEAVER

The Making of Citrus College Football Stars

BY ANTHONY ORONA

Citrus College takes a unique approach to football. While most community college programs across the country push to attract out-of-state athletes, Coach Ron Ponciano works with the community and local high schools to groom the next batch of Fighting Owls. It's not the most popular strategy, but it works for Ponciano. And it has worked, and continues to work, for his players.



Head Coach Ron Ponciano urges players to keep pushing toward the win during halftime.

"IT'S JUST OUR PHILOSOPHY. KIDS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN Xs AND Os. WE MANAGE OUR ROSTER AS IF THE PLAYERS ARE OUR SONS. WE ASK, 'WHAT'S BEST FOR THEIR FUTURES?'"

— Coach Ron Ponciano



MASS AND MATTER

In contrast to programs that recruit solely for athletic ability, Ponciano looks at the whole player, spending more time assessing what he calls the "athlete's maturity." On the field, maturity means strength, speed, size and game acumen. Off the field, commitment to study, team loyalty and all-around character prove to Ponciano that a player is ready to become a student-athlete. More often than not, Ponciano will have a player sit out a year if he feels he needs to improve either academically or athletically. The result? A class-act organization that prioritizes the student's overall success over the program's track record.

"It's just our philosophy," said Ponciano. "Kids are more important than Xs and Os. We manage our roster as if the

players are our sons. We ask, 'what's best for their futures?'"

It's not that Ponciano's staff is unconcerned with winning; they simply consider students transferring and playing football at four-year colleges and universities the paramount win — even if it means releasing a student a year early, or convincing a student to stay and grow at Citrus.

LOOK AT THE STARS

Students like Albert Cid, who went from sitting on the bench at Mt. San Antonio College to becoming a sensation at Citrus College, are typical of what the Fighting Owls program produces. After two years under the rigors

and training of Ponciano's program, Cid shined on the field, and quickly had recruiters clamoring for his consideration. At the end of his tenure at Citrus College, Cid signed a letter of intent to play Division I football at the University of California, Los Angeles.

And stories like his are common — Rodney Matthews, Chris Stringer, Mitchell Harmon, Brandon Hyashi and Addison Bauchman recently left the "owl's nest" to play for the likes of Montana State University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Arizona and California State University, Fresno. To say that Ponciano turns underdogs into champs simply doesn't suffice. The Fighting Owls program is more like an assembly line of winners.

THE FIGHTING OWLS' FUTURE

The 2016 season came to a close with the Fighting Owls putting a 4-6 record on the board. Not the most successful season by any means, but Ponciano and his players have learned to keep their heads up. Perhaps it's because they're naturally resilient; it could also mean they're optimistic for a good reason. Each player on the team knows they're more than a number at Citrus College. With the Fighting Owls, student-athletes can have hope for their team, for their coaches and for their futures. With that attitude, truly, anything is possible. ●

THE CITRUS COLLEGE MENTORS

Jennifer Chavez Ramos, and Her Plan to Inspire

BY STACY ARMSTRONG

On the surface, Jennifer Chavez Ramos appears to be a typical college student. She loves Starbucks coffee, watches Netflix in her spare time and appreciates unique fashion. However, the 24-year-old philosophy major is far from typical. In addition to attending Citrus College full time, Ramos simultaneously juggles three jobs while raising her younger sister. The Glendora resident also regularly volunteers to feed the homeless, and has helped organize eight campus blood drives over the past two years.

A LONG-HELD DREAM

It was this fierce commitment to serving others that led Ramos, in the fall of 2015, to run for student trustee on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. She eagerly stepped into her new leadership position in May 2016, serving an extremely successful one-year term. "As student trustee, I was able to speak to many students, listen to their concerns, and then discuss these concerns with deans and professors. I was also able to bring student issues up at board meetings and other college events," she said.

It was during one such gathering that Ramos was given the opportunity to transform a long-held dream into reality. "I had the honor of attending a retreat with members of the board of trustees where we were tasked with developing board goals that support the college's Strategic Plan," she recalled. "One of the plan's focus areas is enrollment. I had entertained the idea of creating a mentorship program for a while, but I didn't know how to make it happen. Because this idea fell under the category of enrollment, I decided that the retreat was the perfect opportunity to gain support."

SIERRA HIGH SCHOOL

Ramos' idea was to develop the program at Sierra High School, a continuation school in Glendora. Continuation education is designed for students 16 or older who are at risk of not graduating. Ramos believed that students at these schools could use extra motivation and guidance. "I always felt that a program that could directly connect continuation students with individuals like me who are enrolled in college and have been through the process could be extremely beneficial," she said.

"WE WANT THEM TO KNOW OUR STORIES SO THAT THEY MAY TAKE THEIR OWN CHALLENGE AND USE IT AS FUEL TO PURSUE THEIR OWN DREAMS. WE WANT THEM TO KNOW THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME ANYTHING."

— Jennifer Chavez Ramos





The board of trustees encouraged Ramos to pursue her idea. By September, Ramos had met with the principal of Sierra High School, and discussed the possibility of implementing a mentorship program that would potentially increase the enrollment of Sierra students at Citrus College. As part of the program, Citrus College students would assist the high school students with their enrollment process and financial aid applications, while also motivating them to pursue higher education.



IN ACTION

A month later, Ramos and 10 of her Citrus College peers hosted an event at Sierra to launch the Citrus College mentors program. Nearly 150 high school students attended the kick off, where they participated in an informational survey. “I don’t want any student to feel lost or afraid of college. I want them to be prepared – to see college as an opportunity, not as a burden,” she said. “My goal is for them to come to Citrus College already familiar with the campus, the resources and the services to use when they need help.”

Ramos has planned several activities for the mentorship program in the months ahead. These include hosting workshops at Sierra regarding Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Citrus College’s Extended Opportunity Programs and Services. The mentors will also participate in many of the high school’s events, such as Report Card Night, and they will provide tutoring sessions and tours of Citrus College.

“Our main goals are to plant the seed of education, and to inspire these students,” she said. “Each of the mentors and I have experienced some type of hardship in our lives, but we never gave up hope when it came to pursuing our education. We want them to know our stories so that they may take their own challenge and use it as fuel to pursue their own dreams. We want them to know that it is possible to overcome anything.”

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This is a message close to Ramos’ heart. A continuation school graduate, she was left to care for her younger siblings when her parents (who are undocumented immigrants) had to return to Mexico. Because of her financial struggles and personal difficulties, her initial entry into college was less than stellar. “I was interested in developing this project because of my experiences,” she said. “If something similar had been in place when I was a student at Sierra, I believe my transition to college would have been much easier.”

While she may have had a rough start, Ramos is finishing her time at Citrus College very strong. She will graduate in 2017, and plans to transfer to a four-year

“I DON’T EVER WANT ANY STUDENT TO FEEL LOST OR AFRAID OF COLLEGE. I WANT THEM TO BE PREPARED AND SEE COLLEGE AS AN OPPORTUNITY, NOT AS A BURDEN.”

– Jennifer Chavez Ramos

university to major in philosophy and minor in political science. Her ultimate goal is to practice immigration law.

“My life has not changed much since I started at Citrus College. I am still working two to three jobs at a time, my parents are still unable to return to the United States and I am still caring for one of my siblings,” she said. “However, what is different is my attitude, and the way I view life. I am much more positive, and my self-esteem is higher than ever before. I now fully believe that I can do anything I set my mind to. I will always have struggles, but I have also come to realize that along with the problems there will always be solutions.” ●



Jennifer Chavez Ramos with the Citrus College Board of Trustees. Pictured (L-R): Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ramos, Trustee Susan M. Keith, Trustee Patricia A. Rasmussen, Trustee Barbara R. Dickerson, Trustee Joanne Montgomery and Trustee Edward C. Ortell. Chavez Ramos served a one-year term as student trustee, May 2016 – May 2017.

FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

Meet our Distinguished Alumni

BY CHRISTINA GARCIA AND MARILYN GRINSDALE

Alumni are essential to the Citrus College success story. Whether they have enriched their professional lives by taking a class or two, accomplished a personal goal by earning an associate degree, entered the workforce after receiving a career technical certificate, or continued their education by transferring to a four-year college or university, Citrus College's alumni serve as role models for current students. These individuals have forged a pathway for others to follow. Their tales of triumph and overcoming obstacles give current students

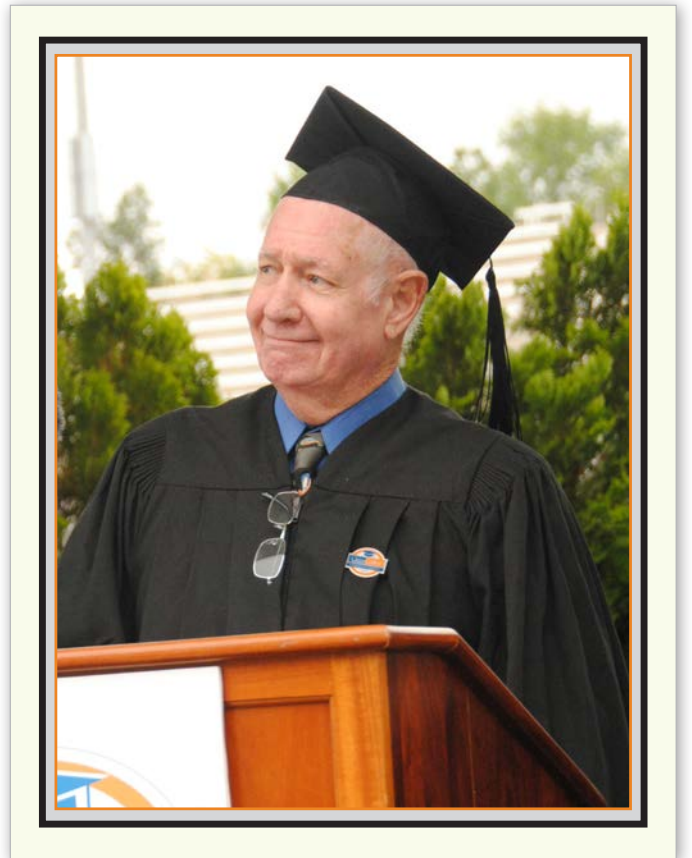
hope by demonstrating that academic success is possible.

The accomplishments of our alumni reflect favorably upon Citrus College as a quality academic institution. Their professional, community and philanthropic achievements bring distinction to the college. Many of our impressive alumni are service-oriented leaders who partner with the college to support its efforts in developing the workforce of tomorrow.

Every year, the Citrus College Alumni and Friends Association recognizes "Distinguished

Alumni" who have enriched their communities through lifelong service. More than 65 awards have been presented since the recognition's inception in 1965.

Three outstanding alumni received the "Distinguished Alumni" Award at Citrus College's 100th Annual Commencement Ceremony in 2016. Immediately following the ceremony, they were honored at a luncheon hosted by the Citrus College Foundation.



Cecil Brower

In the midst of an illustrious career with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), Cecil Brower began his journey at Citrus College in the fall semester of 1973.

Having served eight years in the U.S. Air Force in communications and electronics, Brower first opted for an electronics class. He continued to take one class at a time until 1979, when he was selected for a team that would oversee the development of an unmanned aerial vehicle, also known as a drone. Because of the job's extensive travel requirements, Brower put his education on temporary hold.

In 1988, Brower resumed taking classes at Citrus College. His proficiency with desktop computers and programming prompted him to enroll in computer courses. Brower graduated from Citrus College in 1993 with an associate of science degree. In 1998, he became an adjunct faculty member, working in the college's main computer laboratory.

Over the years, Brower has given much to his community in Glendora. He and his wife, Giovanna, were awarded the Family of the Year Award from Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 477. Brower's extensive community service also includes serving as Eagle Advancement Chair for the Boy Scouts of America Big Dalton District; as a member of the Los Angeles County Commission; and as Band Booster Chairman for the Charter Oak High School band.

Throughout his professional career, Brower garnered several awards from NASA, including the prestigious Space Flight Awareness Award.

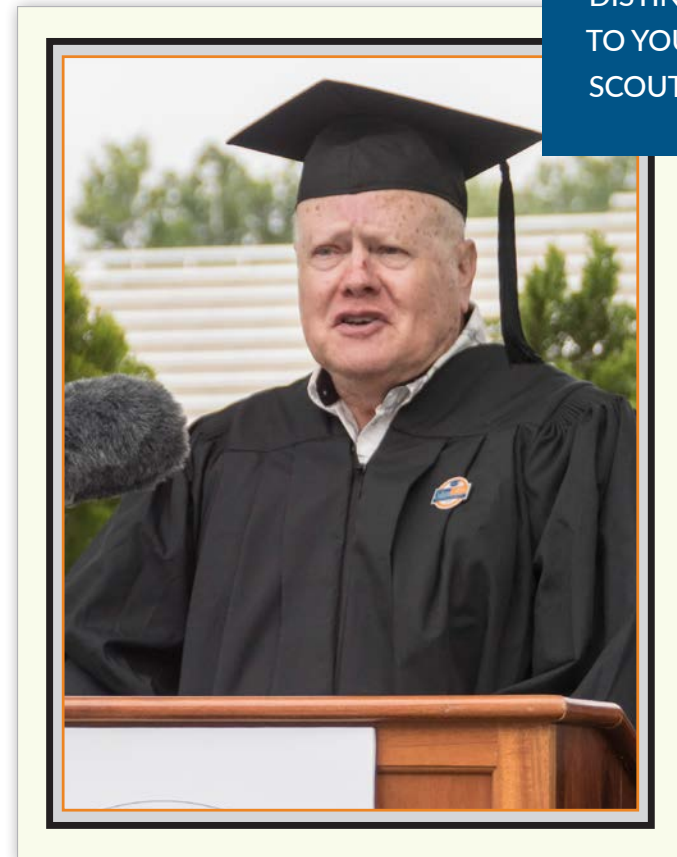
Since retiring from JPL in 2005, Brower has remained an active, contributing member of the Citrus College community. He currently works in the Learning Center and the Hayden Memorial Library. His student-centered philosophy and his belief in the importance of education has motivated him to continue doing what he loves — working with and encouraging Citrus College students.



John McHann

It was John McHann's activities as a Citrus College photographer and his studies in pre-engineering that laid the groundwork for an exciting career, which included managing 25 field service engineers in support of United States reconnaissance during the Cold War. It was an era when U-2 pilots flew espionage missions in planes equipped

RECIPIENT OF THE BADEN POWELL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO YOUTH WITHIN BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



with state-of-the-art cameras designed to take high-resolution photos from the edge of the stratosphere. McHann, a graduate of Citrus Union High School, class of '57, and Citrus College, class of '59, landed his first job developing advanced high-resolution sensors with Hycon Manufacturing Company, a small Monrovia firm that designed and built the first high-resolution cameras for the U-2 aircraft. The company was later bought by McDonnell Douglas, and then by Boeing.

Throughout his life, McHann contributed to a variety of volunteer efforts in the San Gabriel Valley. He served as a radio operator for the civil defense program, and he was the assistant scout master and committee person for Troop 491 of the Boy Scouts of America. He is the recipient of the Baden Powell Award for distinguished service to youth within Boy Scouts of America units.

A childhood friend of Michael Rubel, the creator of Glendora's Rubel Castle, McHann developed a growing interest in the eclectic mix of rock buildings that make up the site. McHann began assisting Rubel with his building efforts. Following his retirement in 2005, McHann volunteered to serve as the property manager.

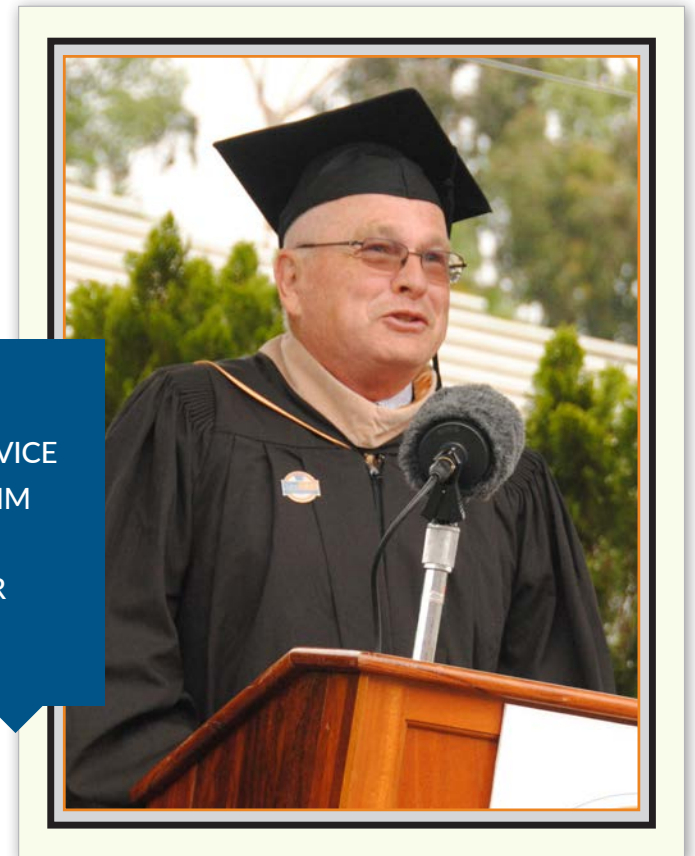
During McHann's tenure, Rubel Castle, which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2013, was rented for movies and visited by numerous celebrities, such as Prince Philip, Henry Kissinger and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie. The facility also accommodated art classes from Citrus College and the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been an annual field trip destination for third grade students from Glendora Unified School District.

Doug Tessitor

Although Doug Tessitor has had a highly successful career as a financial consultant, insurance broker and banker, it is his lengthy record of community service that earned him the reputation as a community leader and advocate.

The groundwork for Tessitor's professional career started at Citrus College, where he studied business from 1964 to 1967. He later earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Southern California, and did graduate work at the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird). He also holds Chartered Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant professional certifications from the American College of Financial Services.

LONG RECORD OF COMMUNITY SERVICE THAT HAS EARNED HIM A REPUTATION AS A COMMUNITY LEADER AND ADVOCATE



Professionally, Tessitor has held management positions with Chase Bank in New York and with Union Bank in Los Angeles. He also served on the board of directors of Foothill Independent Bank in Glendora.

An active participant in civic life, Tessitor was directly involved in bringing the Glendora Marketplace to life through a ballot initiative in 1999. Tessitor was elected to the Glendora city council from 2003 to 2015, serving as mayor in 2005-2006 and 2010-2011.

Tessitor has served as a member of the Foothill Health and Education Foundation Board of Directors and the Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors. His mother, the late Jane Braun, was also a community leader, and served as the Citrus College Foundation board president for several terms.

In addition to his contributions to the community of Glendora, Tessitor is well known for his ardent support of

the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line. Following his retirement from the Glendora City Council, the city of Pasadena reappointed Tessitor for an additional four-year-term on the Construction Authority Board to help complete Phase II of the Metro Gold Line.

In reflecting on the impact Citrus College had on his career, Tessitor simply stated, "It was invaluable!" He further commented, "I am intimately aware of the impact Citrus has on our community and our region. The potential promised by Citrus College to our young citizens is priceless." ●



FOUNDATION MISSION

The Citrus College Foundation develops and nurtures relationships that provide resources to further the district's mission of advancing students' educational goals.

FOUNDATION VISION

Our vision is resourceful relationships that empower lives through strong partnerships; ambitious fundraising goals; an engaged, productive board; improved visibility and awareness; ongoing college success stories; and modeling and recognizing philanthropic involvement.

FOUNDATION VALUES

We value integrity, dedication, collaboration, ambition, innovation, generosity, empowerment, excellence and success.

GETTING THE JOB DONE

Citrus College Meets Regional Workforce Needs

BY STACY ARMSTRONG

A bachelor's degree was never part of the plan for Talia Reyes.

When she enrolled in the automotive technology program at Citrus College in 2012, Reyes was solely focused on earning a certificate in automotive service, diagnosis and repair. As a single mother with an adolescent son, her main goal was to enter the workforce as quickly as possible. However, Reyes soon realized that successfully completing a few extra classes would allow her to earn an associate degree.

"After that, I decided to take even more classes so I could earn a diesel certificate and an associate degree in medium and heavy truck technology," Reyes explained. "Before I knew it, I was graduating with two associate degrees, and thinking about transferring to a university."

Now, in addition to working as a mechanic for a local car dealership, Reyes is planning to earn a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Riverside. Her ultimate goal is to become a business owner.

"It is definitely challenging to be a female entering a predominantly male field. And it isn't easy to raise a child on your own while enrolled in college. But Citrus gave me the tools I needed to reach my end goal," Reyes said. "I received a great education that will serve as a strong foundation as I embark on my career."

WHAT IS NEEDED?

Preparing students like Reyes to enter the workforce is the primary goal of career technical education (CTE) at Citrus College — and it is something the college does incredibly well. Citrus College is highly ranked among the state's 113 community colleges in terms of CTE certificate and degree completion.

"Citrus College has one of the highest percentages of students who complete their CTE program of study," explained Dr. James Lancaster, dean of curriculum, career/technical and continuing education.

This is not only good news for the college and its students, but also for the state. The California Community College Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy asserts that California will have an estimated 1.9 million job openings requiring some form of postsecondary education, or "some college," by the year 2025. With many employers already struggling to find workers with the necessary skills to fill job openings, addressing the demands of the state's labor market has become a priority.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Connecting coursework with labor market demands is a key facet of CTE at Citrus College. Before a program is introduced or curriculum is established, a significant amount of research takes place. Faculty and staff start by studying the regional economy. They determine which occupations are predicted to have

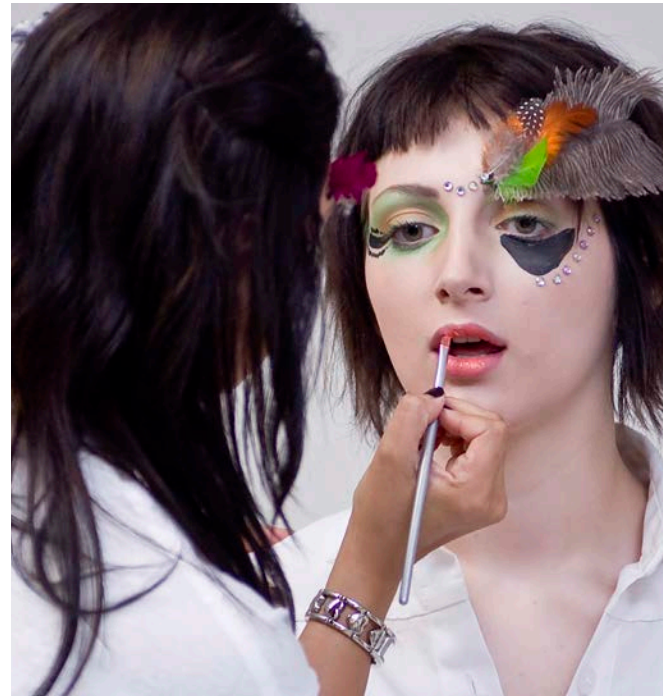
Instructor Mariano Rubio works with students in the Technician Development Center. The college's automotive program offers career technical certificates for automotive technicians, diagnosis and repair technicians, and in medium and heavy truck technology.



Talia Reyes



The drafting and design technology program includes architecture, drafting and art courses that provide students with the technical knowledge and specialized skills necessary for conceptualizing and designing a variety of environments.



The cosmetology and esthetician programs introduce students to the latest techniques in the cosmetic treatment of hair, skin and nails, while providing hands-on experience that emphasizes professionalism and artistry.



The registered dental assisting (RDA) program provides a comprehensive, quality education that includes more than 1,000 hours of training in both classroom and dental office settings. Upon completion of the program, students are prepared to take the Dental Assistant National Board Examination and the California RDA exam.

growth, have a shortage of workers, pay a livable wage and have been identified as regional priorities.

After pinpointing these key areas, Citrus College works with industry professionals to identify the relevant skills and abilities necessary to secure and sustain employment in the occupation or occupational cluster. CTE personnel outline the necessary licensure, verify what credentials are valued by employers and explore what is needed to obtain upward mobility within the field.

“At Citrus College, it is not about quantity, but about quality,” Lancaster explains. “We are very specific about the certificates we create, as well as their alignment to the occupation and industry. We are focused on developing programs that lead to high-wage, in-demand occupations to support industries that grow the regional economy.”

WHAT IS OFFERED?

This detailed and thoughtful approach is what led to Citrus College’s recent program addition of biotechnology. Introduced during the fall 2015 semester, the biotechnology program began as a 20-unit career pathway leading to a certificate of achievement in biomanufacturing. Students receive extensive hands-on experience with industry-standard tools and equipment. Workforce readiness is also a focus of the program, with students developing résumé writing and job-interview skills.

“Biomanufacturing is a diverse field, and skilled employees are in high demand,” said Dr. Arvid Spor, vice president of academic affairs. “The faculty and staff of Citrus College’s biotechnology program are committed to helping students excel, and are determined to meet industry needs.”

Upon completion of biotechnology coursework, students are prepared to seek employment as biological



Graduates from the new biotechnology program are already experiencing a return on their investment. The 20-unit career pathway debuted last year, and provides students with extensive hands-on experience with industry-standard tools and equipment. A majority of the first group of graduates is now employed in the industry, or has spent significant time conducting research.

technicians, manufacturing production technicians, quality-control technicians and environmental monitoring technicians.

Another successful program Citrus College is looking to build upon is emerging theatre technologies (ETT). This 34-unit sequence of courses prepares students for technical careers in the entertainment industry. The coursework is designed to provide critical skills in lighting, live sound reinforcement, stage technology, and live event video and project management. Students receive hands-on experience in multiple specialized technical production areas that include theatre, concert touring, theme parks, television and film.

"For me, the most valuable aspect of the Citrus College ETT program was the variety of skills I was able to develop," said Kara Lundie, program graduate. After completing her certificate, Lundie secured an internship with Production Resource Group (PRG), the largest production lighting company in the world. Since that time, she has worked her way up the ladder, and now serves as an asset manager for PRG.

"Having a broad base of knowledge allowed me to succeed in the industry," Lundie said. "It made me invaluable to the company because they were able to use me on multidiscipline jobs."

Providing this broad base of knowledge is something each of the CTE programs at Citrus College is designed to accomplish. Currently, the college offers 17 CTE degrees, 31 certificates of achievement and 17 skill awards. In addition to automotive technology, biotechnology and ETT, the wide range of CTE offerings includes nursing, administration of justice and dental assisting, among many others. In every program, students are equipped with the education, understanding and skills needed to succeed in the workplace.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

The number of CTE programs offered at Citrus College will continue to increase in the years ahead. In fact, the college will soon debut an innovative new addition. Beginning this fall, a new water efficiency management program will be the first of its kind in Los Angeles County. With coursework addressing issues such as efficient water usage and water-saving technologies and procedures, this new offering promises to be especially relevant in a state prone to drought conditions.

Another program in the works is construction management. According to Lancaster, construction is an industry that has been identified as being vital to the region's economic growth. Because of this, Citrus College is in the process of creating an associate degree that will enable students to receive the necessary certifications in the field.



The emerging theatre technologies program prepares students for technical careers in the entertainment industry. The coursework is designed to provide critical skills in lighting, live sound reinforcement, stage technology, and live event video and project management.



Students in the emergency medical technician program prepare for an exciting career through a curriculum that integrates anatomy and physiology classes with training in basic life-support skills, trauma care, emergency vehicle operation and professional conduct. Students receive practical training experience in local emergency rooms, as well as within an ambulance.



The Citrus College associate degree in nursing program is approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing.

The highly competitive recording technology program prepares students for successful careers by instructing them in both the technology of audio engineering and the business aspects of the industry.



When it is introduced, construction management will join a long list of CTE programs that offers associate degrees. Although a traditional view of CTE is solely focused on occupational preparation, the reality is that more and more programs are serving as pathways to earning an associate degree and/or transferring to a four-year college or university.

"Our programs represent a continuum of goals," explained Marti DeYoung, CTE supervisor. "Many students don't stop with their certificate. They enter the workforce, establish a career and add to their education. They may enter the program for a certificate, but they continue for a degree."

Citrus College's success in preparing students for transfer, the workforce and beyond exemplifies the vital role community colleges play in meeting the state's dire need for skilled workers. This is a role validated by California Governor Jerry Brown and the California Community College Chancellor's Office.

In June 2016, Governor Brown signed SB 830, a bill establishing the Strong Workforce Program for the

California Community Colleges, which provides an unprecedented \$200 million in funding to support and expand CTE. More recently, the Chancellor's Office announced that it was funding a statewide initiative to re-brand and market CTE in an effort to increase public awareness.

With its research-based program creation and the Chancellor's Office's renewed focus on workforce development, Citrus College is poised to help supply qualified workers for the region's economic and workforce demands.

"The innovative educational opportunities offered in our career technical education programs equip students with specialized skills that are highly marketable, making them valuable additions to the region's workforce," said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president. "Whether students decide to seek employment after completing their program of study or choose to continue their education at the four-year level, they leave Citrus College with the knowledge needed to achieve personal and professional success." ●

FROM GLENDORA TO ANDOYA: AN EDUCATION

The Journey of Citrus College's "The Epiphany," and Its Impact on 15 Citrus College Students

BY NEIL H. WEISS

ACT ONE

And So It Begins

Journeys can be deceptive. They often begin long before you embark on a project or set foot on an airplane. In movies, the journey starts with an inciting incident – something that launches the hero into action. For our production of "The Epiphany" (an original play by Citrus College History Professor Dr. Bruce Olav Solheim), the inciting incident occurred about a year ago, after our first production of the play, when an email arrived from Norway. But I'm getting ahead of myself. Let's start at the beginning.

The Epiphany

Bruce, Cherie Brown (program director for performance at Citrus College) and I previously collaborated on Bruce's play, "The Bronze Star" (she produced; I directed in 2012). That production won an award from the Kennedy Center's American College Theatre Festival. Two years ago, Bruce wrote "The Epiphany," a new play based on his parents' experiences in Nazi-occupied Norway. After a read-through with students, we were sold. Cherie put it on her 2015 production slate. The play focuses on a family's efforts to survive the Nazi occupation in Andoya, Norway. When a Nazi colonel commandeers their home, the family must decide their course of action: resist, escape or collaborate.

The Students

As my students researched 1940s Norway, we focused on what the characters sacrificed to survive, no matter what their role – Nazi, Norwegian or Jew. Suddenly, the obvious "I would kill the Nazis" became a complicated self-examination of "survival at what price." My challenge was how to make college students from California connect authentically to 1940s Norwegians and Nazis. I asked the students, "What would you sacrifice; what would you do?" This exercise in research, empathy and ethics became a great tool for educating them, yielding emotionally truthful performances. As a result, our audiences viscerally experienced the life and death choices forced upon 1945 Norway. The result? Overwhelming success! Sold-out shows! Yet, after we closed, I intuitively felt we weren't done. Something was still to come. Then came the email from Norway ...

AS A RESULT, OUR AUDIENCES VISCERALLY EXPERIENCED THE LIFE AND DEATH CHOICES FORCED UPON 1945 NORWAY ... YET AFTER WE CLOSED, I INTUITIVELY FELT WE WEREN'T DONE. SOMETHING WAS STILL TO COME. THEN CAME THE EMAIL FROM NORWAY ...

The National Theatre in Oslo, Norway's historic and iconic venue for the dramatic arts.





ACT TWO

An Invitation to Norway

Bruce had sent a video of our production to the cultural officials of Andoya, Norway, the island where the play's events took place. They responded with an email, inviting us to visit. We accepted, arrived in April and met with the Norwegians: cultural officials, school administrators and a variety of community leaders who would determine the future of our journey. Plans were made, we returned to Citrus College, joined forces with Cherie and became an unstoppable force committed to bringing our students to Norway. But how?



The Road Less Traveled

There were a million details to resolve, including money, sets, projections, props, costumes and passports. Many of our students had not traveled outside the country, few had ever been on a plane and none had ever been to Norway. This would be their first "international experience," and we were determined for it to be educational and life-changing. Finally, issues were resolved and challenges met. We boarded the plane hoping for the best, prepared for the worst.

Oslo, Norway

New challenges: navigating planes and trains, language barriers, jet lag, and lost passports. As we toured the

Ibsen Museum and explored this beautiful city, I noticed a growing curiosity in our students.

Arrival: Andoya

Amazing scenery. A warm welcome. The Norwegians took us into their homes. A stern warning from Cherie and me to the students as they depart to live with their host families: "Remember, you represent America. Our country will be judged by your behavior." They nod, understanding this was no longer "just about them." Something bigger was occurring.

Complications

My stage manager, student Jessica Pineda, and I discovered there was no lighting designer. Our crew? Four local 14-year-old boys (only two of whom could speak English) had volunteered to hang lights and run the show. Initially overwhelmed, Jessica assumed the role of lighting designer, and within hours she was managing the crew like a seasoned professional. In her own words, "As a naturally shy person, being in Norway pushed me out of my comfort zone. For one, I had never flown in an airplane before this trip, and I had to communicate more than I ever had in my life while managing the stage and interacting with others. Things that were a given at home had to be expressed very clearly in order for the production to run smoothly, so I definitely returned to Citrus with a refined skill set."

Breakthrough

New problems demand new solutions. We quickly adapted and changed not only how we did things, but how we thought of ourselves. There was no time for doubt. "Breakthroughs" occurred daily: fielding questions in the Q&A with Norwegian students about American politics; realizing the "prop" weapons were real Nazi weapons (loaned to us from the local museum); witnessing the northern lights late at night; tasting (and liking!) moose; and experiencing standing ovations and multiple curtain calls. All these experiences immediately affected the students, giving them confidence, making them curious and truly educating them.



ACT THREE

The Reward

Our stay ended. Exhausted, we packed our bags, said our goodbyes and started the long trip home. Lost passports were found. Safe skies above the Atlantic. The thrum of Los Angeles. We were finally home. In most movies, the hero returns with the elixir: wisdom to share with the tribe, or rewards that make the world a better place. What did we bring back from our journey? Again, it might be best to let one of our students answer:

Lead actress, Jacqueline Fregeolle, shares what shocked and impressed her most about the Norwegian culture: "The people on the island of Andoya are among the most hospitable people one could ever meet. The most unique aspect of their culture, however, was the way they used green technology — how roads were built over streams, how they developed efficient methods of recycling and, overall, were more connected and in touch with their land. Everything was natural, and their modern ideas didn't conflict with land conservation. Since returning from Andoya, I now bake my own breads and make my own jams, just like my host family did."

An Education

In addition to baking bread and making jam, I believe the students returned with a changed perspective forged by confidence, and earned through hard work and success

in a foreign land. They attempted and achieved a noble thing. They brought home a new curiosity, a sense of accomplishment and a new understanding of the term "education." No longer is it only gleaned from books, labs, and lectures — "education" now means a multi-layered understanding of the world. Perhaps, most importantly, our students brought home a desire for new journeys. ●



— Neil H. Weiss is an adjunct faculty member at Citrus College, and teaches Screenwriting/Playwriting and Acting for the Camera. He also directs and produces independent theatre, TV and film in Hollywood, and directed the Citrus College theatre production of "The Trip to Bountiful." He recently completed writing on the second season of Investigation Discovery's

"True Nightmares," and is developing an independent rom-com for production in the spring of 2017.

CITRUS COLLEGE MAGAZINE OWL'S NEST

Faculty and Staff Highlights

BY STACY ARMSTRONG



Pictured (L-R): Dr. Lan Hao, director of institutional research, planning and effectiveness; Dr. Marianne Smith, director of Institute for Completion and grants oversight; and Dr. David Kary, faculty member, participate in the Student Engagement Series discussion, "Coffee and Conversation," in November 2016.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SERIES

The challenge of keeping students involved, motivated and actively learning is something that every educator understands. For this reason, Citrus College launched an innovative speaker series designed to impact student success. As part of the series, faculty members lead thought-provoking discussions on the topic of student engagement. They also share their tips and techniques for engaging the college's diverse student population. Last year, six faculty members presented as part of the series. Dr. Dale Salwak, English instructor; Dr. David Kary, astronomy instructor; and Ms. Victoria Dominguez, mathematics instructor, each led a discussion during the spring semester, while Mr. Dave Brown, automotive technology instructor; Dr. Christine Goedhart, biology instructor; and Mr. Brian Waddington, history instructor, each presented during the fall semester. ●



The pink patch worn and sold by members of campus safety during last year's Pink Patch Project can be seen on the uniform worn by Benjamin Macias, campus safety supervisor, during a presentation to the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

PINK PATCH PROJECT

The Citrus College Campus Safety Department helped raise more than \$30,000 for breast cancer research during the 2016 Los Angeles County Fair. In September, campus safety joined representatives from the Glendora and Irwindale police departments and other public safety agencies in running a booth at the fair as part of the Pink Patch Project. This national effort to bring attention to the fight against breast cancer involves selling and displaying special patches resembling each public safety agency's specific emblem. The patches are stitched with bright pink thread, providing sharp contrast to the dark uniforms worn by officers. In addition to their efforts at the fair, campus safety also wore the pink patches on their uniforms from June through October. During this timeframe, the department sold the patches, raising an additional \$1,200 specifically designated for the City of Hope's main cancer hospital in Duarte. ●



FACULTY ART EXHIBIT

Citrus College students had the privilege of viewing their talented art instructors' artwork, which was on display in the Visual Arts Building Art Gallery during the fall 2016 semester. Students enrolled in visual arts classes were given tours of the "Work at Work" exhibit that featured pieces submitted by 16 of the college's full-time and adjunct faculty members. Their paintings, drawings, photographs, ceramics and mixed media showcased a variety of styles, materials and techniques. "So many of our students have no idea that we are all practicing artists," said Mike Hillman, ceramics instructor. "This was a great opportunity for us to show our students what we do in addition to teaching." ●



Laura Shurtleff, secretary; Angie Delgado, publications specialist; Mary Zampielo, reprographics technician; and Linda Reed, administrative clerk II, each received the Above and Beyond – Classified Development Award in 2016.

ABCD AWARDS

The Classified Staff Development Committee makes quarterly presentations of the Above and Beyond – Classified Development (ABCD) Award during meetings of the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge the significant contributions classified employees, or support staff, make to Citrus College. The honorees are selected because they embody the college's mission, encourage teamwork and cooperation, demonstrate exceptional service, and foster a more productive workplace. The ABCD Award recipients for 2016 were Laura Shurtleff, secretary; Angie Delgado, publications specialist; Mary Zampielo, reprographics technician; and Linda Reed, administrative clerk II. ●



Dr. Monica Christianson, director of Citrus College's Veterans Success Center, left, was named Woman of the Year for the 48th Assembly District. Lillian Sass, coordinator of the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Education and Resource Program, was named Woman of the Year for the 25th Senate District.

WOMEN OF THE YEAR

In 2016, state legislators recognized the contributions that two Citrus College employees made to their communities. Dr. Monica Christianson, director of Citrus College's Veterans Success Center, was named a Woman of the Year by Assemblymember Roger Hernandez, representing the 48th district. Dr. Christianson was selected to receive this honor because of her dedicated leadership and commitment to empowering students and veterans at Citrus College. Lillian Sass, coordinator of the Citrus College Foster/Kinship Education and Resource Program, was named a Woman of the Year by Senator Carol Liu, representing the 25th district. Sass was selected to receive this honor because of her commitment to supporting foster youth, as well as her dedication to educating foster and adoptive families. ●



Members of the Strategic Plan Work Group joined Trustee Susan M. Keith and Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine M. Perri for a celebratory moment.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Thirty-five dedicated members of the Citrus College community spearheaded the development of the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, which was introduced during the fall 2016 semester. Chaired by Dr. Lan Hao, director of institutional research, planning and effectiveness, the Strategic Planning Work Group (SPWG) reviewed approximately 60 reports and documents that covered topics such as the external environment, local factors and institutional data, among others. The SPWG also examined data on Citrus College students, and solicited feedback from the college community. In the end, they created a comprehensive five-year plan with one overarching goal: increase student success and completion. ●



Mrs. Susan M. Keith, Claremont's representative on the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees, was re-elected to the California Community College Trustees Board of Directors.

TRUSTEE NAMED TO STATE BOARD

Mrs. Susan M. Keith, Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees member, was re-elected to the California Community College Trustees (CCCT) Board of Directors in 2016. This is Trustee Keith's second term serving as part of the 21-member CCCT board. As one of two policy boards for the California Community College League (CCLC), the CCCT provides input to help guide the decisions made by CCLC to better serve the organization's member colleges. The board also takes positions on and formulates education policy that comes before the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the state legislature and other relevant state-level boards and commissions. ●



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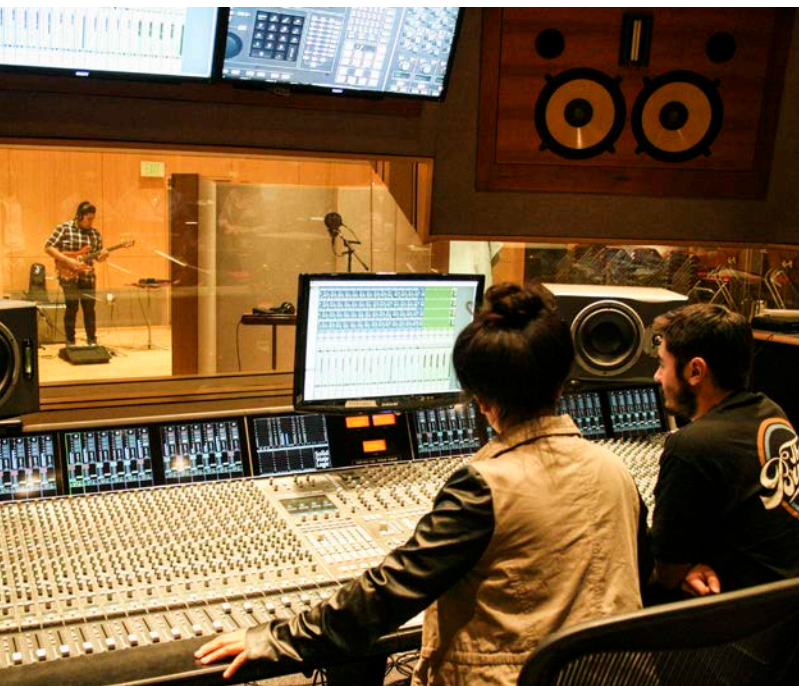
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