

Citrus VIEW

—LATEST NEWS FROM CITRUS COLLEGE—

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In-person theatrical performances return to campus



"Our Town" is Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play set in the early 1900s. Photo courtesy Shawna Louise.

Citrus College recently returned to hosting in-person theater productions for the first time since 2019.

In September 2021, the college's theatre arts program held three outdoor performances of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama, "Our Town." Set in the early 1900s, the play follows a group of residents living in the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire.

John Vaughan, dean of visual and performing arts, called the production a "wonderful experience for all."

"It was done as an 'outdoor under the stars' experience, so that the actors and audience could be maskless," said Mr. Vaughan. "There were over 30 people involved in the performance. We used to do outdoor theater many years ago, but this is the first one in at least 10 years."

During the early months of the pandemic, the Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts Division faced several challenges, including how to transition its ensemble touring schedule, visual arts exhibits and performing arts season into a virtual environment. Ultimately, the division found creative ways to remain active by producing several projects online. Some of the performances were livestreamed, while others were mixed and edited.

Two additional productions will be held on campus in fall 2021. On Nov. 19 and Nov. 21, the theatre arts program will perform John Cariani's "Almost, Maine." In December, the annual holiday spectacular "Christmas Is..." returns for four matinee performances on Dec. 5, Dec. 11, Dec. 12 and Dec. 18. Led by the Citrus Singers and accompanied by a live orchestra, the multimedia production will be packed with dazzling visuals, festive songs and energetic dance numbers.



The college's theatre arts program performed "Our Town" on three consecutive nights in late-September. Photo courtesy Shawna Louise.

"We are looking forward to seeing audiences return to the Haugh!" said Mr. Vaughan.

In accordance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, all patrons over the age of 2, regardless of vaccine status, must wear a mask when inside the Haugh Performing Arts Center. Bandanas, scarves, face shield-only or masks with exhalation valves are not permitted.

Tickets for upcoming productions are on sale through the Haugh box office. Citrus College students, faculty and staff can receive 50% off the top ticket price for "Christmas Is..."

The box office is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased by calling 626-963-9411 or visiting www.haughpac.com.

Campus community participates in successful accreditation virtual site visit



Nearly 90 members of the Citrus College community participated in the campus open forum on Zoom on the first day of the visit.

After months of planning and preparation, Citrus College hosted representatives from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) for a virtual focused site visit on Oct. 12 and Oct. 13.

An important step in the accreditation cycle, the two-day visit included three Zoom events that were open to members of the campus community. The visiting team also conducted interviews with full committees, as well as the leads and co-leads of specific accreditation standards. The goal of the interviews was to gather more information regarding program review and student learning outcomes.

"There were a couple of areas where we needed to understand more, and we thought we would benefit from asking questions," said Sunita "Sunny" Cooke, Ph.D., chair of the ACCJC visiting team. "With the ISER [Institutional Self-Evaluation Report] being so concise and these processes being so complex, we felt it would be very beneficial for us to be in conversation with [key people

on campus] to help us understand some of those more complex processes. So, those became the two areas of our core inquiries."

One highlight of the visit was the campus open forum, which provided members of the Citrus College community with the opportunity to share their perspective with the ACCJC visiting team. The college's collaborative spirit, welcoming environment and commitment to students were highlighted by the faculty, staff and community members who contributed to the conversation.

"The team was very impressed with the involvement of folks across the college in the planning and work of the college, as well as in the approach to accreditation. It was clear that this was a very inclusive process, and that this is a very inclusive and collaborative campus," Dr. Cooke said.

Citrus College is one of three institutions that are part of a pilot program for the new formative/summative method of accreditation, a fact the visiting team emphasized.

"You all boldly went where others had not yet gone and we really appreciated that," Dr. Cooke noted. "Thanks to all those that were involved in writing and editing the ISER and shepherding this process, as well as preparing for the focused site visit."

The next stage of the process is for the visiting team to write the draft team report, followed by Citrus College's review of the draft and correction of factual errors. After the final team report is submitted to the ACCJC, they will review it and take action on the college's accreditation status at their January 2022 meeting.

"The entire campus community should be commended for its amazing efforts and solid contributions to our ACCJC virtual focused site visit," said Dr. Joumana McGowan, vice president of academic affairs. "We deeply appreciate everybody's willingness to participate, collaborate, and help showcase all the wonderful work that has been, and continues to be done, at Citrus College."

Automotive technology instructor, student earn awards



Mr. Carlton (left) and Mr. Rubio (right) both received monetary awards from SEMA.

The Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA) Memorial Scholarship Fund recently awarded \$3,000 to a Citrus College student and faculty member.

William Carlton, an automotive technology student, earned a \$1,000 scholarship that he planned to use for purchasing tools and study guides. His goal is to be a master technician capable of repairing any machine or piece of equipment.

Automotive technology instructor Mariano Rubio received a \$2,000 loan forgiveness award, which he used to pay off student loans for his bachelor's degree.

"SEMA is such an integral part of the automotive industry and receiving the award from them is quite the honor," said Mr. Rubio. "It's helped me pay off some of my student loans, and it encourages me to continue my academic pursuits in the realm of automotive and heavy-duty truck technologies."

Mr. Rubio graduated from Citrus College in 1998 and went on to work as a Toyota Master Diagnostic Technician at several local Toyota dealerships. He joined Citrus College part-time in 2010 and became a full-time faculty member in 2012.

In addition to teaching at Citrus College, Mr. Rubio is pursuing a master's degree in mechanical engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and working part-time as a support engineer for a research team at the University of Southern California. The team is tasked with developing a high-energy pulsed plasma system to refine the emissions of diesel engine exhaust gases.

"I feel a technology developed to be retrofittable to older engines that can help clean the air even further has great value in our current global warming situation," said Mr. Rubio. "I'd like to contribute whatever I can to see that we keep our atmosphere clean."

Retired faculty member helps raise scholarship funds



An exhibition fundraiser benefiting digital arts students is currently being held in the college's Art Gallery.

Although faculty member Matt Jackson retired in July 2021, he is still contributing to the education and well-being of Citrus College students.

An exhibition currently on display in the college's Art Gallery, located in the Visual Arts Building, features abstract paintings Mr. Jackson created during the 20 years he taught digital arts at Citrus College. The pieces featured in "Matt Jackson – Paintings 2001-2021" are all available for purchase, with 100% of the proceeds going toward digital arts students and their educational endeavors.

"Fundraisers like this don't come along often. There aren't very many art scholarships knocking on students' doors," said Dyane Duffy, coordinator of the exhibition and visual arts instructor. "Matt cares about the college's visual arts programs and is particularly interested in the growth of the digital arts program, which he helped build over the past 20 years. This show is important to him, to the division and to our efforts to help deserving students pursue their goals."

The exhibition opened with a reception on Sept. 21 and will be on display through Nov. 9. The gallery is open from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additionally, the college's ArtsWatch speaker program hosted Mr. Jackson on Zoom on Nov. 3. Created in 2016, ArtsWatch provides educational opportunities for students, such as art openings and film series.

"The pieces in the show are evidence of Matt's love and experience with printmaking. This can be seen in the many layers of transferred images, collages, drawings and paintings. He also loves color, as well as the materiality of the paint and surfaces. He has always been interested in textures and layering," Ms. Duffy continued. "He was a large part of the visual and performing arts division for two decades, and he has been missed since his retirement. It is nice to still have him with us here in the gallery! His work will inspire and engage all viewers."

Black Scholars team empowers students



Ms. Fennell (left) and Mr. Jacquet (right) help create and organize events and activities for the Black Scholars program.

Launched earlier this year through the Citrus College Counseling and Advisement Center, the Black Scholars program continues to grow and support student success.

Led by adjunct counselor La Quirshia Fennell and educational advisor Dominic Jacquet, the program aims to increase retention within the college's Black population and promote Black excellence through history, scholarship and community. It offers several benefits, such as counseling and advisement support, cultural events, leadership opportunities, and mentorship.

As the program's counselor and coordinator, Ms. Fennell works with students to create education plans while connecting them with campus resources. Mr. Jacquet, who serves as educational advisor, supports students through education plans and checking in with them throughout the semester.

"Black Scholars is an important program at Citrus College, as it demonstrates how culturally relevant programs improve a student's sense of belonging on campus," said Ms. Fennell.

Throughout the year, the program has hosted virtual game nights, Zoom background challenges and Village Hour. Offered biweekly, Village Hour is a safe space where students can congregate online and share what they are experiencing.

Ms. Fennell and Mr. Jacquet said the events increase student motivation and academic excellence.

The Black Scholars program also coordinates activities with the college's Men of Color Mentor Program, which connects students with faculty and staff who are committed to helping them achieve their educational goals. Mr. Jacquet serves as a mentor within that program, and Ms. Fennell is one of the committee members.

For more information about the Citrus College Black Scholars program, visit www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrv/blackscholars, email blackscholars@citruscollege.edu and follow [instagram.com/black_scholars.cc](https://www.instagram.com/black_scholars.cc).



BLACK SCHOLARS

In memoriam: Dr. Edward C. Ortell



Dr. Ortell served on several boards, including the California Community College Trustees Board and the Los Angeles County School Trustees Association.

Edward C. Ortell, J.D., who served on the Citrus College Board of Trustees for more than 50 years, passed away on Oct. 16, 2021, at the age of 82.

First elected to the board of trustees in 1969, Dr. Ortell represented Duarte and portions of Azusa, Monrovia, Arcadia, Covina and Irwindale. In 2020, he was honored for being the longest-serving community college trustee in California.

"The board extends our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Ortell," said Dr. Patricia A. Rasmussen, president of the board of trustees. "For more than 50 years, Dr. Ortell was instrumental in helping promote significant initiatives at Citrus College. This loss is enormous, and we will all miss him tremendously."

Dr. Ortell held all trustee offices, including more than 10 terms as board president. A professor emeritus of business and computer technology at Pasadena City

College, Dr. Ortell also authored two college textbooks on mathematics and received several National Science Foundation grants. Additional honors include receiving the CBS anchor Ralph Story Service Award, the Community College Association We Honor Ours Award and the Duarte Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Civic Service Award.

A staunch advocate for community colleges, Dr. Ortell will be remembered for his unwavering and dedicated commitment to Citrus College and its students.

"Our Citrus College community is deeply saddened by the passing of Trustee Edward C. Ortell," said Dr. Greg Schulz, superintendent/president of Citrus College. "He was a visionary leader who expertly helped the college navigate five decades of change and innovation with passion and enthusiasm. His loss is not only felt at Citrus College, but throughout the San Gabriel Valley."



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Citrus College



citrussuptpres Earlier this week, our Board of Trustees hosted a Welcome reception for me outdoors on our Campus Plaza with our faculty, staff and student leaders. It was nice to visit with so many colleagues on our beautiful campus. Many thanks to our staff who worked together to plan and coordinate a safe, enjoyable gathering. It's going to be a great year! #citruscollege #goowls

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