

Citrus

Spring 2011

CollegeNewsMagazine



SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT'S

Welcome

Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *Citrus College News Magazine*. For more than 95 years, Citrus College has served our community by offering exceptional academic programs and student services, as well as quality athletic, cultural and entertainment events. We draw upon our rich history and strong ties to our district communities as we move toward the future, continuously evolving to meet the challenges and demands of the 21st Century.

This spring marks a significant milestone in the history of the institution as we celebrate the opening of the new Student Services Building, pictured on page 13 of this magazine. Most of the college's student services are now conveniently housed together providing our students with a one-stop location for Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Counseling, and the Career/Transfer Center, to name a few. The building, which was partially funded by the Measure G Bond and partially funded by the state, also includes a bookstore, cyber café and meeting rooms. This new facility will surely enhance the college experience of every student.

This issue of the *Citrus College News Magazine* features an article about our Veterans Program. The college takes pride in providing our military veterans with the best services available to help them transition to civilian life. As students, they benefit from a special Boots to Books class, the first of its kind on a college campus, a Veterans Center and a Veterans Book Fund. Citrus College is honored to be recognized as a "Military Friendly School" by *GI Jobs* magazine and to be a recipient of a \$400,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop further support services for our student veterans.

Also profiled in these pages is the story of two Citrus College music program alumni, Anthony LoGerfo and Cory McCormick who have achieved industry success as professional musicians. Their band has performed on two late night television shows and recently released their first album. The college wishes them the best and is happy to be part of their journey.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone who has not recently visited our campus to do so. You will be surprised at how much we have grown. Even with new buildings, and expanding programs and services, our mission to serve students and the community endures. Citrus College is here to offer our community the finest educational opportunities available. Hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,



Geraldine M. Perri
Superintendent/President



Spring 2011



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If you would like to sponsor this magazine or make a donation to Citrus College contact the Citrus College Foundation at (626) 914-8825.

4



Content

Feature

4 **Helping Our Heroes**
Veteran Education

Alumni

10 **Keepin' It Real**
Anthony LoGerfo & Cory McCormick

13 **Heavy Metal**
Conrad Brazzel

14 **Owl's Nest Notes**
Reunion Recap, In Memoriam, Alumni Award Recipients

Athletics

8 **Slam Dunk**
Coach Chris Victor

Campus

7 **News**
Measure G Update, Green Award, Senator's Visit

Faculty & Staff

18 **Azusa's Angels**
Joanne Hinojosa & Lillian Sass

Foundation

15 **A Patriot Gives Back**
Tom Gerfen

16 **Shining Bright**
Joyce Dill

17 **Valley's Got Talent**
Winners

Students

19 **Defying Gravity**
Students Selected for NASA Program

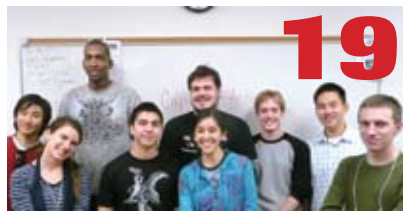


15

16



8



19



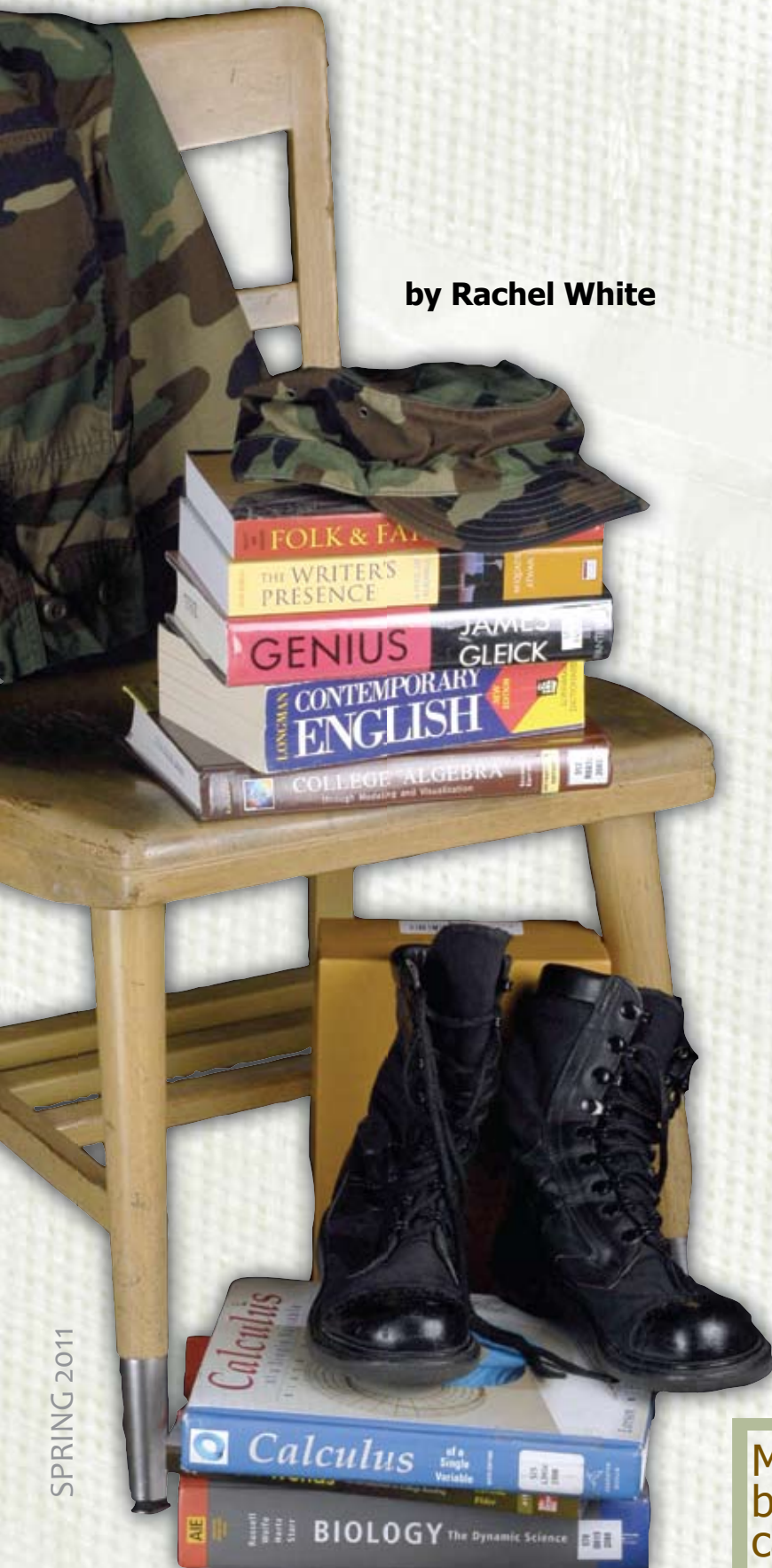
10



Helping Our Heroes

Citrus College a Leader in
Veterans Education

by Rachel White



When Vietnam army combat veteran Manuel Martinez came back from the war, he was unprepared for the challenges that faced him. It was 1967, and the antiwar movement was growing on college campuses across the country.

Martinez was hoping that enrolling in college would help him make the transition to civilian life easier. He could put the war behind him and focus on the future, maybe earn a degree or receive job training.

Instead, Martinez found himself on the front-line of a battleground here at home, and this time he was fighting alone.

“Anti-war anger was directed at the veterans on campus,” he recalled. “I was almost ashamed to say I was a vet.”

Adding to the negative reactions from some fellow college students, Martinez was experiencing personal difficulties that were impacting his studies.

“I struggled with college when I got back from Vietnam,” he admitted. “My head wasn’t right. There wasn’t anyone diagnosing post traumatic stress back then.”

More than 40 years later, with a new generation of combat veterans coming home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Martinez felt a calling to provide these young men and women with the help and support he never received. He envisioned a program on a college campus that could meet the unique needs of veterans and their families.

Drawing upon his background working as an employee with the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he offers counseling and employment services to veterans, Martinez developed a proposal and began presenting his idea to college campuses across Southern California.

Martinez developed a proposal and began presenting his idea to college campuses across Southern California.

“The Boots to Books class helped me with the transition from military to civilian life.”

“I took it to different colleges,” he said. “I got nowhere until I came to Citrus College where I brought my idea to Dr. Bruce Solheim. My background and his came together right away. He was very supportive and immediately arranged meetings. Citrus jumped on it, and the administration said, ‘Let’s make this happen!’”

Martinez found an instant ally in Solheim, a Citrus College professor of history who teaches classes on the Vietnam War and who had also served in the U.S. Army as a chief warrant officer II. Solheim was in active duty from 1978-1981 and again in 1983-1986. He served in the Army Reserves from 1982-1983 and in 2008-2010.

“Helping our veterans is of paramount importance,” Solheim said. “They have helped us and protected us and we owe them for everything that we enjoy in this country.”

With two veterans passionate about their cause, and an entire college backing them up, it didn’t take long before Boots to Books was born. The first program of its kind on a college campus, Boots to Books, taught by Martinez, assists veterans and their families with the transition to civilian life through a curriculum that focuses on college readiness, interpersonal skills and techniques for effectively managing military stress, combat reaction stress, operational stress, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

“Studies say that 15 percent of combat vets suffer from PTSD,” Martinez said. “We are also seeing a lot of traumatic brain injuries from bombing blasts. There are other issues to deal with such as substance abuse, which vets often fall victim to as a coping mechanism.”



Manuel Martinez instructs veteran students in his Boots to Books class.

“Helping our veterans is of paramount importance.”

The Boots to Books class, offered in both spring and fall semesters as Counseling 160, consistently has an enrollment of approximately 30 students. The college-transferable course offers practical, social and academic information to veterans and their families on the labor market, goal setting, college preparation, writing therapy and self care.

“The Boots to Books class helped me with the transition from military to civilian life,” said student veteran Charles Olsen who served in the U.S. Navy from 1997-2005. “I received so much support at Citrus for being a vet including information on how to obtain benefits. After Citrus, I plan to obtain a bachelor’s degree, land a great career, and enjoy my job!”

Since implementing Boots to Books back in 2007, the veterans program on campus has grown to meet the needs of its students and become an example to the nation of how to care for and educate military service men and women. Student veterans receive support from a Veterans Center established through a grant from Wal-Mart. The center provides GI Bill processing, information and counseling, a Veterans Network club, workshops, interactions with veterans’ organizations, and peer-to-peer support groups. The college also has a Veterans Book Fund through the Citrus College Foundation that is sustained by employee payroll deductions to help veterans cover the cost of textbooks.



Manuel Martinez (center, front row) and Boots to Books students.

Each year, the college collaborates with the cities of Glendora and Azusa, and Azusa Pacific University to commemorate Veterans Day. This public tribute to the men and women who have served our country is held at Citrus College. The program features keynote addresses from student veterans and participation from veterans of many of America's past and present wars.

With a thriving veterans program that other colleges are now using as a model for their programs, Citrus College's reputation gained the attention of *GI Jobs*, a magazine devoted to helping enlisted personnel transition from military service to the civilian workforce. The national publication designated Citrus College as a "Military Friendly School," for 2011. After reviewing over 7,000 colleges, universities and trade schools across the country for their quality, value and environment, only 1,000 institutions made the final list. Inclusion on this list ranks Citrus College's Veterans Program among the top 15 percent of all higher education institutions' services to veterans.

Citrus College continues to garner recognition for its outstanding services to student veterans. In fall 2010, the United States Department of Education announced that the college would receive a \$400,000 grant to enhance its comprehensive support services for veterans.

Solheim, who volunteers as coordinator of Citrus College's veterans program, already has ambitious plans underway.

"We will have a veteran-themed play coming to campus next fall called, "The Bronze Star," that will involve our student veterans," he said. "The online version of the Boots to Books class will return next year with many improvements and innovations."

Solheim also announced plans to travel with Martinez and assistant veterans coordinator Ginger De Villa-Rose to Norway in the summer of 2012 to present the Citrus College Boots to Books class at the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Combat Stress Conference.

From its humble beginnings as the dream of one Vietnam vet to its recognition on a national and soon global scale, the Boots to Books class and the Citrus College Veterans Program are making a difference.

For Martinez, the isolation and hurt he felt upon returning from war all those years ago is now being used as a catalyst for positive change.

"I have a passion for this," Martinez said. "I draw upon my experiences and do this for the vets that didn't make it back. I consider this work I do sacred."

“I draw upon my experiences and do this for the vets that didn't make it back.”



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK.COM

Campus

Here We Grow Again

The Student Services Building, scheduled to open in spring 2011, will create a welcoming entry to the college and function to consolidate all student services departments into an easily identifiable location. Construction began in July 2008. This 54,450 square foot building will

house the offices of Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, the Health Center, the Job Placement Center, Counseling, the Career/Transfer Center, Extended Opportunities Programs and Services, Disabled Students Programs and Services, and the Vice President of Student

Services. There will also be a Bookstore Express, Cyber Café, meeting rooms, conference rooms, lounges, and storage space. The project is funded by the Measure G Bond and by the state.



RENDERING: tBP/ARCHITECTURE

Citrus College was awarded the Green Campus Award, one of five leadership awards presented during the 2010 Green California Community College Summit in October 2010.

Citrus College was honored because of the programs and policies it has implemented to address sustainability issues. These include creating green curricula, implementing green building standards, and waste reduction.

The creation of a Solar Preparation pilot program and an Energy Systems Technology program, as well as the introduction of new courses in water conservation and environmental management, have allowed the college to meet industry needs and begin educating a green workforce.

Citrus College also encourages its faculty and staff to take an active role in making the college greener. The Green Team hosts workshops and events on campus, including an annual Earth Day celebration.



Senator Bob Huff (SD 29) visited Citrus College on December 3, 2010, meeting with the Superintendent/President and members of the Board of Trustees. After discussing issues that are important to Citrus College and community college education in California, Senator Huff was provided a tour of several college programs and facilities. He had the opportunity to speak with administrators, faculty, staff and students. Senator Huff also hosted his annual Education Summit at Citrus College in March.

New Coach is a **Slam Dunk**

by Andrew Wheeler

Over the past three seasons, no men's basketball team in the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) has been more successful than the one at Citrus College. In three years, the Fighting Owls have compiled a 92-9 record and moved 24 players and five coaches on to the next level. Those numbers are by far the best in the state.

In early August, the architect of that three-year run, Rick Croy, stepped down as the head coach of the Fighting Owls to accept an assistant coach position with St. Mary's College, an NCAA Division I institution. Not wanting to let the program sit in flux, Citrus College



Dean of Physical Education and Athletics Jody Wise swiftly hired an up-and-coming young coach from Concordia University in Irvine, Chris Victor.

Victor was no stranger to Citrus College, having helped reinvigorate the program back in 2005 as Croy's top assistant. After one season on the Citrus College bench, Victor accepted the top assistant coach position with Concordia and has spent the last three years learning from one of the best coaches in the country, Ken Ammann.

"I was here with Rick when he established a new identity for the program," Victor said. "I was very excited to be given the opportunity to come back and keep it going. It was an honor to be chosen to take over a program that has been performing at such a high level."

Ready to lead his own program, Victor accepted the head coaching position for the Fighting Owls the first week of August and

hit the ground running. For those worrying about a drop-off in the program after a transition in power, things have continued as normal. The Fighting Owls competed all the way to the final State Championship game to become the 2011 CCCAA State Runner-Up. The team ended the 2011 season with an impressive 27-6 record.

"The first year has been great. I love every day. I'm very fortunate to have a great group of players who have given it their best effort all year," Victor said. "They're a high-character group and fun to coach. I also have a very talented staff that works hard and competes in all areas of the program."

At the community college level, one of the toughest obstacles for success is the amount of turnover that each program has at the end of the season. With a state record, 11 players from last year's state semi-finalist team received college athletic scholarships. The Citrus College staff has worked hard to restock the cupboard. Bringing in a number of new players can sometimes be a scary proposition because there is no way to predict if the chemistry will be right. Thankfully for Citrus College, that hasn't been an issue.

"What makes this team special is the way they've come together," Victor said. "It's a unique level in that there are so many new players and teammates every season. We only have two people this year who played on last year's team, so we have almost an all new team."

The closeness of the team is what sets the program apart. This sentiment is expressed by the coaching staff and the players as well.

"The brotherhood here at Citrus College is closer than any other team that I have played on," said sophomore guard Lateef McMullan, who is in his first year. "The coaches make sure that we do activities together and because of those things we all get along well. I feel like we would all get along even if we weren't teammates. We're just a tight knit group."

"Everyone is in this together," echoed sophomore guard Donnel Phifer who is in his second year with the program. "It's one big family. Everyone cares about each other. That's the biggest thing with this program."

Going forward there is no doubt that the Fighting Owls are in the right hands. Victor has the team where they have been the past three seasons, and the players are buying into what he and his staff are selling.

"I think he [Victor] lets his players play. He doesn't hold anyone back, and he's a great motivator" McMullan said. "Personally, he was a point guard just like me, so he helps me a lot at my position and knows what I'm going through. He has a lot to bring to the table with that."

"He does a good job of staying on top of us both on and off the court,"

Phifer said. "He is always on us, trying to get us better. He keeps us accountable."

For Victor, his vision for the season and the future are clear.

"We want to win the last two remaining championships, the conference championship and the state championship. Beyond this year we want to continue the high level of

success that this program has been able to maintain," Victor said. "The success of Citrus can be defined in many ways. The most important being the matriculation of our players to the four-year level. Preparing our players for life after Citrus will always be paramount."



PHOTO: CLIFF WURST

Alumni

LUKAS NELSON &
PROMISE OF THE REAL

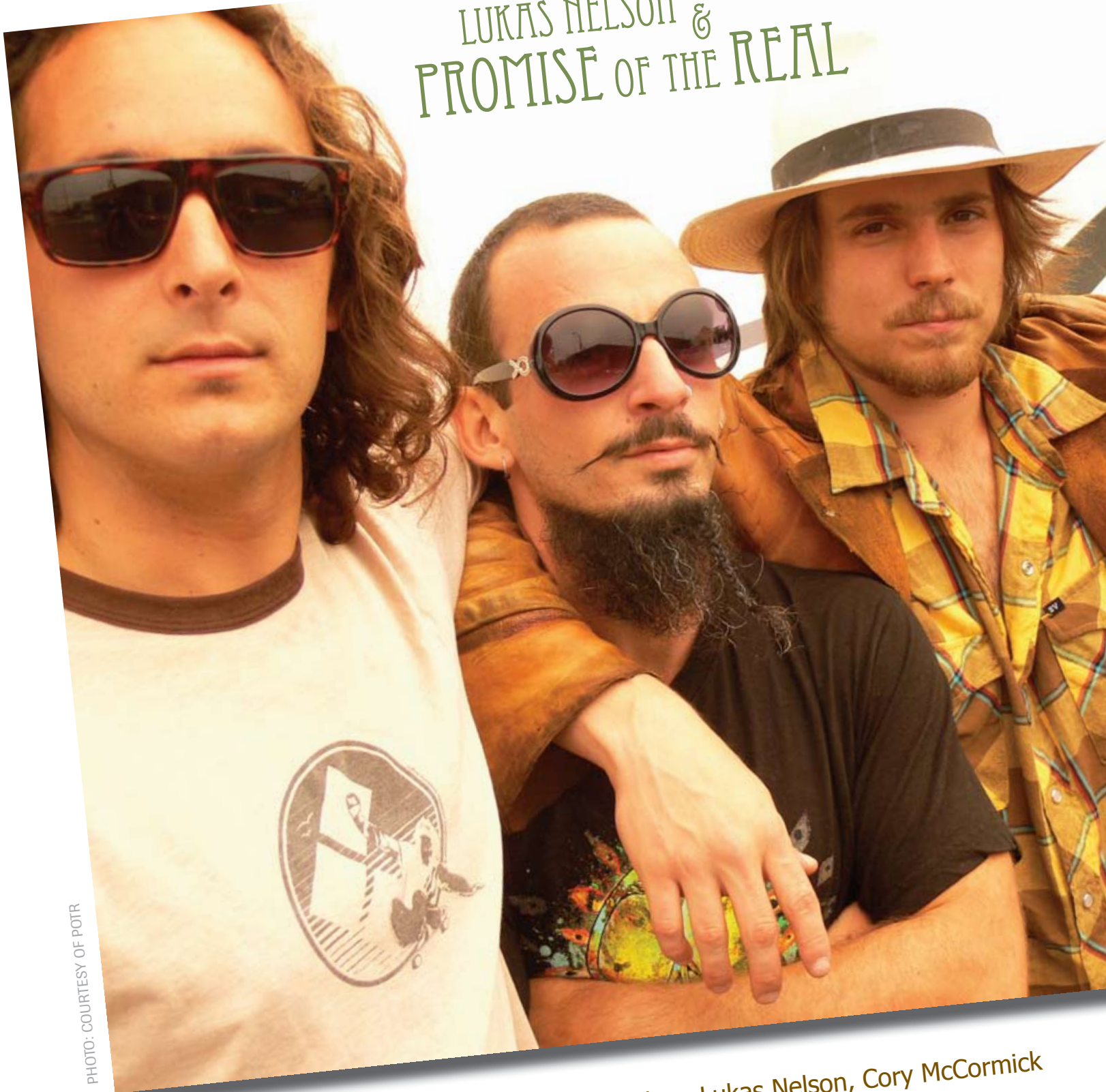


PHOTO: COURTESY OF POTR

(from left): Anthony LeGerfo, Tato Melgar, Lukas Nelson, Cory McCormick



Keepin' It Real

by Rachel White

While other kids his age were fast asleep, Citrus College alumnus Anthony LoGerfo's nights were just getting started. At 12 years old, he was a drummer playing in rock 'n' roll garage bands that performed at the legendary Roxy and Whisky A GoGo clubs on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood. LoGerfo's bands took to the same stages where the Doors, Janis Joplin and Nirvana had played.

With experiences like this so early in his life, LoGerfo was extremely confident in his talents and abilities as a musician when he enrolled at Citrus College after graduating from Bonita High School in La Verne. As a first-year student in the music program, LoGerfo auditioned for Citrus College's instrumental groups knowing he would outshine his peers.

"I made the lowest bands," LoGerfo admitted. "It was such an eye-opener to the real world of music. I realized that to be a well-rounded working musician I had to take this seriously and work hard."

LoGerfo began to devote 10-12 hours a day to practicing his drums and performing with the Citrus College ensembles. It wasn't long before his music teachers took notice of his commitment.

"I remember telling someone that Anthony was going to be the best drummer our program had ever seen," recalled instructional technician Alan Waddington. "He was so smart musically and, while he had some work to do, he was willing to put in the effort."

"I was like the tortoise," LoGerfo said. "I just kept working and practicing. If it weren't for Alan, I wouldn't be where I am today. He would tell me the truth and push me."

Bob Slack, dean of fine and performing arts, approached LoGerfo at the end of his first year and asked him to join Citrus College's summer tour in Japan and Hawaii. The rock 'n' roll garage band drummer soon found himself performing with the college's award-winning Jazz Band, Wind Symphony, and Pop Rock group.

"I came to have an appreciation and love of other music styles, especially jazz," he said. "We got to record an album in the Citrus studio for the great composer Sammy Nestico, which was so cool!"

LoGerfo and Waddington developed a friendship that extended beyond music classes. Waddington introduced his star student to music sensation Gwen Stefani, which led to LoGerfo creating a drum line for one of her songs and performing with her on the road and on television.

Waddington's connections in the music industry didn't end there. One fateful night, LoGerfo accompanied Waddington to a Neil Young concert, and a chance meeting changed everything for the dedicated drummer.

"At that concert Alan introduced me to Lukas Nelson," LoGerfo said. "I totally hit it off with Lukas right way. He had just moved to LA to go to college. We started jamming together and hanging out at the beach."

While Nelson, son of country music star Willie Nelson, was a musician himself he was focusing on college. LoGerfo was no longer in

Alumni

school and was now a full-time musician who had picked up a six-month tour gig with an international singer named Elania Burke. The timing wasn't right but an undeniable connection had been made between the like-minded Nelson and LoGerfo.

After a whirlwind tour through Europe and India, LoGerfo was about to accept a two-to-three-year lucrative deal with Burke that would have him moving to Switzerland. Then the phone rang.

"It was December of 2008, and I got a call late at night from Lukas," LoGerfo recalled. "He said I'm quitting school and my mom isn't cool with it but my dad is, and I'm starting a band called Promise of the Real and I want you to be the drummer."

The invitation was too good to turn down.

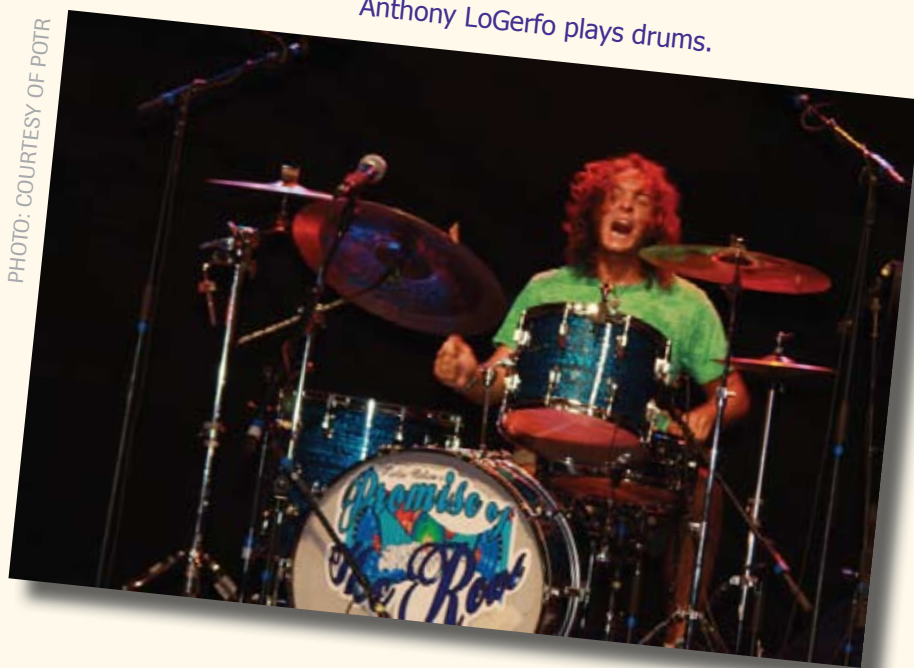
"I said, okay I'm in," LoGerfo said. "I followed my heart. Lukas and I had become good friends and I had always had this dream to be in a rock band with friends that had the same mindset as me. We are in it for the love of the music not to roll in a big limo, have palaces and riches."

With an emphasis on true, organic music, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real was formed. Nelson, LoGerfo, percussionist Tato Melgar and the band's original bassist, John Avila, hit the road in an old pickup truck and toured for four months.

"We didn't get any help financially," LoGerfo said. "We soon traded the pickup for a 1991 van, and after six more months we bought an RV. We quickly put a 100,000 miles on it."

Now, two years later, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real have paid their dues. They have performed 400 shows in 42 states and at times shared the stage with the likes of B.B. King and the Dave Mathews Band. Recently, they received an anniversary present from Willie Nelson, his extra 45-foot tour bus and a driver.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF POTR



Anthony LoGerfo plays drums.

With his dreams coming true, LeGerfo said he is grateful to be sharing the experience with his fellow band members, which now include bassist, Cory McCormick, another Citrus College alumnus.

"I always looked up to Cory as an amazing bass player," LeGerfo said. "When he joined I felt the band was finally complete. We are all brothers."

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real celebrated the release of their first full-length, self-titled album on December 21, 2010. Their unique sound combines rock, blues and country, and the album features several original songs written by Nelson.

The band was invited to perform on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno on January 7, 2011, and the Late Show with David Letterman on February 18, 2011.

Waddington, who watched his former students perform on television, said he couldn't help feeling proud and nervous at the same time.

"My heart was pounding out of my chest," he said. "That was a huge moment for Anthony, Corey and the band. It was so exciting!"

Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real will tour most of 2011. The group performed at Stagecoach, the annual two-day country music festival in Indio the weekend of April 30, 2011. They plan to join Willie Nelson's Country Throw Down Tour May 27-July 4, 2011.

Even with the new album, television appearances, a busy touring schedule and a growing fan base, LeGerfo hasn't forgotten his roots.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without Alan Waddington and Citrus College," he said. "It was a lot of fun being part of the music program. I miss those days. I apply what I learned at Citrus to what I'm doing now."

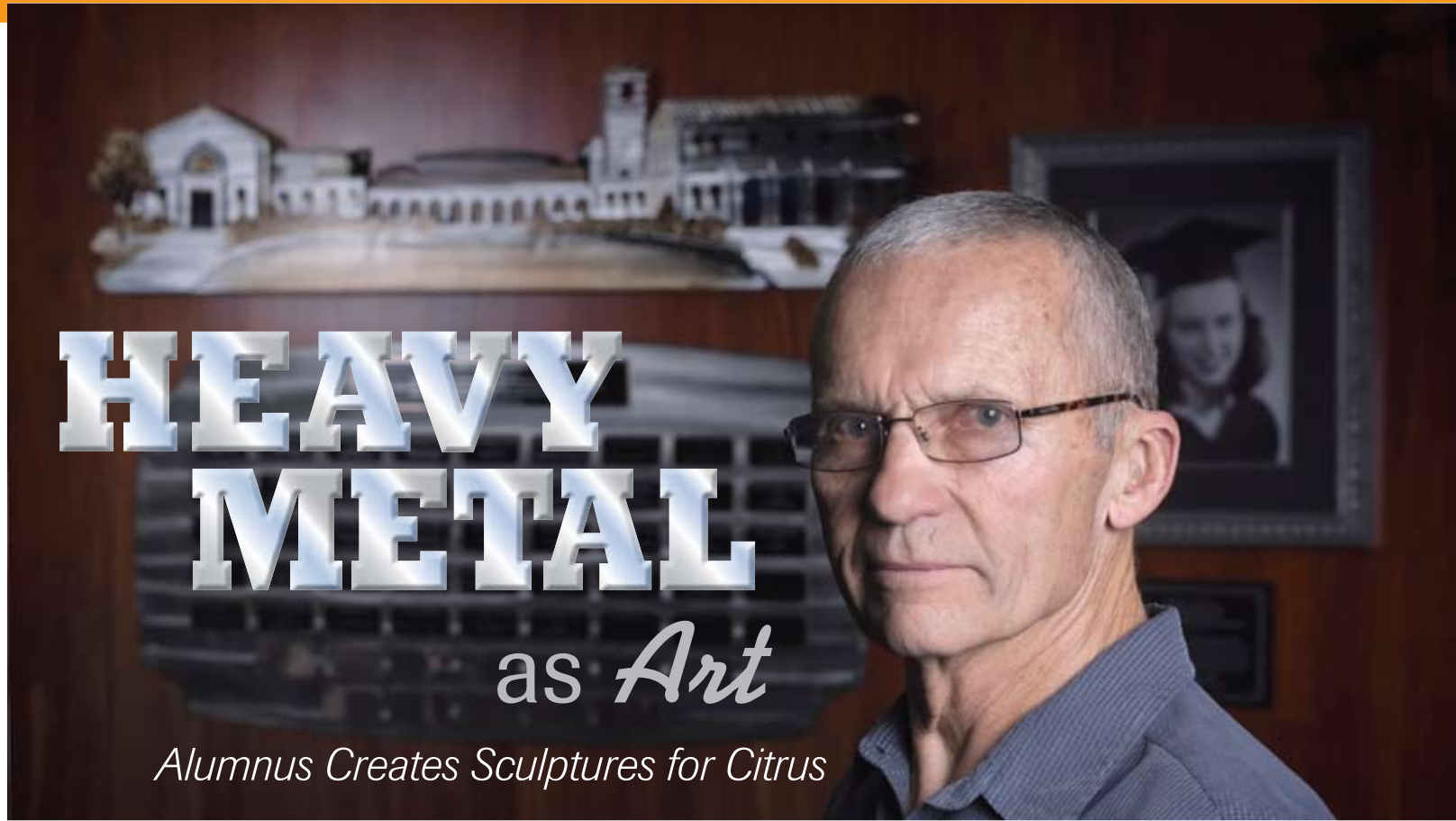
As for the future, LeGerfo, 27, said he plans on being a musician for at least the next 40-50 years.

"Look at B.B. King," he pointed out. "He keeps rocking and he is 84! I just need to keep my head on straight and follow my heart."

The band poses with Jay Leno after their performance on The Tonight Show.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF POTR



HEAVY METAL

as Art

Alumnus Creates Sculptures for Citrus

“I don’t call this work, and I never plan on quitting,” stated sculptor and Citrus College alumnus Conrad Brazzel. At his home studio in Glendora, a three-car garage with no room for any cars as he likes to point out, Brazzel spends countless hours honing his craft and enjoying every moment of the process. His art begins in a traditional way with an idea and then a sketch on paper. What happens next makes Brazzel’s art truly unique. He transforms ordinary steel into beautiful and often three-dimensional images using a metal cutter and a blow torch.

From a 15-foot-tall agave plant in full bloom to silhouettes of animals and architectural landscapes, Brazzel’s varied works are a testament to the talent of a passionate artist who waited years to see his dreams come true.

“I’ve always loved art,” Brazzel said. “I drew cartoons for the Azusa High School newspaper and for the *Azusa Herald*. I majored in art at Citrus College in 1959-1960 and then took classes at the Art Center of Design when it was located in Los Angeles. I had to quit and get a job when I got married.”

After a career in sales, Brazzel retired in 1993 and found he finally had time to revisit the talents of his youth. He drew upon his past experience working with his stepfather in a machine shop where he had learned how to cut steel and weld. He now turns his knowledge of the industry into his creation of the aesthetic. His art is featured throughout Southern California and locally at the Glendora Library and the Pomona Fairplex.

Recently, Brazzel completed the second of two projects for Citrus College. For his first project, Brazzel created a wall sculpture that represents the architecture of Citrus Union High School. He studied pictures of the school’s buildings from the 1920s to

the 1950s and then made a composite drawing before creating the entire scene out of steel. The finished product brings a touch of nostalgia to the campus and is prominently displayed in the Citrus College library. While his first piece celebrates Citrus College’s past, Brazzel’s second project focuses on the present day college and will be displayed to the right of the original sculpture.

The colors of Brazzel’s artwork do not come from paint or chemicals. Instead, he uses a torch to achieve the desired colors through a process called heat oxidation.

“As the temperature rises, colors change,” he explained. “I need to know when to take the heat away. It took thousands of hours of practice for me to perfect this technique. If I make a mistake, I have to start over.”

Though the process can be time consuming and the work requires precision, Brazzel isn’t complaining. In fact, he is grateful.

“I’m very fortunate and excited to use my God-given talent,” he said. “It is especially rewarding to create something for my own community. I would tell others not to lose sight of their talent, to keep it active and never give up.”

by Rachel White

Alumni

Class of 1950 Reunion Recap

The Citrus Union High School (CUHS) Class of 1950 held its 60th class reunion on October 15-17, 2010, at the Radisson Suites Hotel in Covina. Approximately 150 guests attended the event including the evening's honoree Dr. Frank Martinez, CUHS retired social studies teacher and retired Cuesta College superintendent/president. Representatives from Citrus College present were Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president; Mrs. Susan M. Keith and Mrs. Joanne Montgomery, board of trustees; June Stephens, executive director of development and external relations; Tom Gerfen, president of the foundation board; and Eric Magallon, president of the alumni association. A DVD of the 1950 class reunion can be purchased for \$10. Send your check to the Citrus College Foundation, 1000 West Foothill Blvd., Glendora 91741. Please indicate payment is for the 1950 reunion DVD.

In Memoriam

Jim Woodward, class of 1955, passed away on November 12, 2010. He was a successful Glendora businessman and member of the Alumni Association board. Jim and his wife Sylvia did a wonderful job planning the 2009 All-Class Reunion. Jim was always willing to lend a helping hand and will be remembered for his positive attitude.

Bill Jack Shores, class of 1950, passed away on March 30, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. He served in the Korean War where he was awarded the Bronze and Silver Star. Upon his return, Bill played football for his beloved Citrus Owls. In addition, he served the community for many years as a Little League and Pop Warner coach. He will be greatly missed!

Alumni Award

The Citrus College Alumni Association is pleased to announce its recipients of the 2011 Citrus College Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award: **Ivan Misner**, 1947, and **Daniel Parke**, 1975.

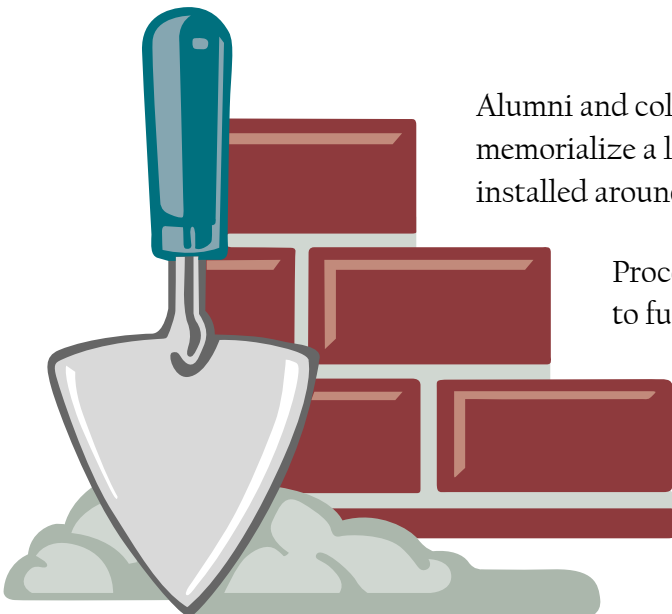
The two will be recognized during the Citrus College commencement ceremony on June 18, 2011.

For the full story, see this magazine's fall 2011 edition.



BUY-A-BRICK Program

A meaningful way to leave your mark on campus



Alumni and college friends may purchase engraved bricks for \$100 to memorialize a loved one or to recognize an achievement. The bricks are installed around the campus fountain located in the center of campus.

Proceeds from the sale of bricks are used to fund scholarships and campus projects.

Complete the form available online at www.citruscollege.edu on the Alumni Association home page and mail it along with your check today.

Foundation

A Patriot Gives Back



Citrus College Foundation President Tom Gerfen has spent his life serving his country and his community. For 38 years, Gerfen was both a full-time Citrus College instructor and a member of the U.S. Navy. His commitments to education and the nation's military have recently come full circle in the form of a \$10,000 gift to the Citrus College Foundation to fund scholarships for Citrus College's student veterans.

"Our military men and women deserve our support," Gerfen said. "There is a famous quote that says, 'All gave some and some gave all.' We honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country by helping those who make it home. Often, returning veterans are in financial need and their options may be limited. Education is the key to providing them with a promising future."

Gerfen's donation will fund four \$500 scholarships each semester. The scholarships are available to any current student veteran who is enrolled in or has taken the Boots to Books class and has a GPA of 2.3 or higher.

"I geared this scholarship to those who have a need and may be struggling in school," Gerfen said. "The funds can be used at the student's discretion to help them cover the expenses associated with college."

Last November, Gerfen was honored at the college's annual Veterans Day celebration for his military service. His naval career includes four years of active duty and 38 years in the reserves. He was promoted 14 times and retired as a Navy commander.

"Serving in the military taught me to step in when I see a need; to give back," Gerfen said.

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Gerfen attended Citrus College and Cal State University Los Angeles. As a Citrus College student from 1957-1959, he

served on the student court, wrote for the newspaper and was editor of the yearbook.

After completing three years of active duty, stationed at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station, and one year as a Naval officer in Washington D.C., Gerfen returned to Citrus College where he taught Computer Information Systems (CIS) classes for the next three decades and served as interim dean of his department. Teaching enabled

Gerfen to spend his summers serving extra duty in the Navy Reserves.

At Citrus College, Gerfen served three terms as president of the Academic Senate and two terms as president of the Faculty Association. He is a past president of both the Pasadena Navy League and USS Pasadena Foundation.

Now retired from both Citrus College and the military, Gerfen continues to serve. He helps raise funds for

scholarships and programs through his work with the Citrus College Foundation Board. He is also active with the Citrus College Alumni Association and was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award in 2007. Gerfen is a member of the Monrovia Community Services Commission and the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.

Gerfen encourages others to give of their time and resources to help those in need.

Foundation

Joyce Dill *Shining Brighter Than Ever*



Although Joyce Dill retired from Citrus College in 2006 after 41 years of dedicated service, she is busier than ever with a calendar full of activities that center around her passions – Citrus College and helping others.

Dill spent last fall organizing the 60th Citrus Union High School (CUHS) class reunion, which took place October 15-17, 2010. She remembers being a CUHS and Citrus College student with great fondness.

“It was the best of times,” Dill reflected. “I would go back to those days if I could.”

School provided the perfect outlet for the energetic Dill. She immersed herself in extracurricular pursuits as a student at CUHS, class of 1950, and Citrus Junior College, 1951-1952. She was a cheerleader, wrote for the student newspaper and was involved in sports and drama.

Dill has many lifelong friends, including CUHS classmate and fellow Citrus College alumna Sharon Lewis, who describes Dill as “the greatest, most generous person I know.” Dill married her high school sweetheart, Bill, and the two will soon celebrate their 60th anniversary.

Dill’s philosophy for relationships is simple but profound: “Always give more than you take.”

As supervisor of the Citrus College bookstore, Dill said she loved serving the students.

Now as a retiree, Dill continues to help students through her work with the Citrus College Foundation Board by raising funds for scholarships. She also is active with EYE-DAS, an organization that helps the visually impaired.

Recently, Dill was selected as a recipient of the first Citrus College Shining Star Vision Award. She was recognized for her outstanding efforts in exemplifying the college’s vision and values during her more than 60 years of involvement with Citrus College as a student, employee and volunteer.

“Citrus has been a huge part of my life,” Dill reflected. “To this day, it is still one of my passions. I have cherished memories of this institution that has played such an important role in my life.”



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VALLEY'S GOT TALENT



Elements Dance Cru, from Dance Effect Studio in West Covina, received the grand prize at the Citrus College Foundation's Valley's Got Talent fundraiser and talent competition on Sunday, January 30, 2011. The 10-member group of girls, ranging from ages 10 to 17, received a check for \$1,000 after performing a unique dance number combining clogging and house dancing. Pictured from left to right are Mike Schaub, comedian and co-emcee for Valley's Got Talent, Elements Dance Cru, and Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, superintendent/president of Citrus College.

Ferrol Brown, a 19-year-old singer and songwriter from Azusa, received \$500 as the first runner-up for Valley's Got Talent. Brown played the ukulele and performed an original song entitled "Mr. and Mrs. Star."



In addition to recognizing local performers, Valley's Got Talent raised \$80,000 for Citrus College programs and scholarships. Congratulations to all the performers.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PERFORMERS

Faculty & Staff

Azusa's Angels



Joanne Hinojosa and Lillian Sass serve together to make their community a better place.

“Citizens have the right to live free of violence, prejudices & racial discrimination.”

Citrus College employees Joanne Hinojosa and Lillian Sass are making a difference in their community by serving on Azusa's Human Relations Commission (HRC). Both ladies use their background in education to help them as they strive to bring unity and cultural awareness to their city.

“The commission is charged with developing and organizing activities that help unite the community and direct youth toward positive and socially-desirable activities,” Hinojosa said. “Serving in this position allows me to be part of the important events organized by the HRC for the Azusa community. One of my many passions is helping those in need and connecting them with resources and opportunities so that they can improve the quality of their lives. I am at a great place right now, by working at Citrus College, to do just that.”

“The Azusa Human Relations Commission's goal is about human rights,” Sass said. “Citizens have the right to live free of violence, prejudices and racial discrimination. Having worked with youth and various boards dealing with the same concerns as the commission is helpful. My personal beliefs of cultural awareness, fairness and honesty fit in with the commission's goals.”

The HRC is comprised of nine appointed members and it organizes two major annual events. “Lead in Harmony” is a daylong conference for middle and high school students of the Azusa Unified School District where topics such as cultural diversity and racism, teen suicide, gangs and drugs are addressed. “Hands Across Azusa” is an inspirational community event that commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his “I Have a Dream” speech.

As EOP&S/CARE supervisor at Citrus College, Hinojosa coordinates and supervises outreach and recruitment, peer advising, the Summer Bridge program, new student orientations, and special events and workshops. Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOP&S) helps students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds transfer to a four-year university or receive job training. Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) offers support services to EOP&S students who are single parents with children under the age of 14 and are current TANF/CalWORKs participants.

Sass serves as the foster/kinship and adoption program coordinator. Citrus College has the second largest community college foster care program in California, known as Foster & Kinship Care Education (FKCE). Citrus College services the west end of San Bernardino County and the east end of the San Gabriel Valley providing caregivers with child development classes as mandated by the state of California for the completion of training hours.

Students

Defying Gravity

In June, nine Citrus College students will defy gravity, courtesy of an elite college program sponsored by NASA.

These students, known as the Citrus GraviTeam, were selected to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Student Flight Program at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. They will perform an experiment they proposed, designed and created while flying in a microgravity environment aboard the NASA C-9 "Weightless Wonder" aircraft.

The Citrus GraviTeam is comprised of Team Captain Craig Stremel; flyers Gabriel Grier, Harrison Ruiz, and Phoebe Sulzen; and alternate flyer Wesley Gunter. Randall Acosta, Jacqueline Deeb, Branden Han and Joshua Huffaker will participate as ground crew members.

Stremel has past experience working with NASA. In November of 2010, he participated in a three-day event known as the National Community College Aerospace Scholars Program at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. As a member of a student team, he helped develop a prototype rover for Mars exploration. Stremel felt he gained so much from the experience that he sought out another chance to work with NASA—and this time invited his friends to join him.

"This is an amazing undergraduate research opportunity," Stremel said of the upcoming program. "It is great being surrounded by friends who study higher math, physics and engineering. We work so well together. This is a true team effort."

Citrus College mathematics instructor Lucia Riderer is the GraviTeam faculty advisor and coordinator for the NASA research

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LUCIA RIDERER



Citrus GraviTeam members (left to right) Randall Acosta, Phoebe Sulzen, Gabriel Grier, Harrison Ruiz, Craig Stremel, Jacqueline Deeb, Wesley Gunter, Branden Han, and Joshua Huffaker.

project. She said that developing an idea for an experiment to be tested in microgravity was a difficult challenge.

"We had such a short time to brainstorm and come up with an interesting idea," she said. "Once the proposal was accepted by NASA, the students enrolled in an academic class created for this project. Watching my students work together so well in putting together a 49-page scientific proposal makes me feel very proud. This experience helps remind me why I became a teacher 20 years ago."

Once the Citrus GraviTeam arrives at the Johnson Space Center, student flyers will undergo a medical exam and physiological training before boarding the flight with the NASA crew. During the flight, they will experience "weightless" moments of microgravity, as the plane conducts parabolic (or curved) maneuvers over the Gulf of Mexico. At that time, the students will test their experiment, observing the phenomena of capillary action. In simple terms, the team will note the effect of reduced gravity on the speed of liquid running through tubes to spin a wheel. If the experiment is successful, its results could help create new methods of producing alternate sources of energy to power small devices in space such as satellites.

According to Riderer, her NASA students are embarking on an unforgettable adventure and are paving the way for other Citrus College students to have similar opportunities.

"They will experience the wonders of aerospace," she said. "They will meet NASA engineers and possibly astronauts, strong role models for their future careers. Once a Citrus College team has been accepted, the door is open for future teams. We intend to have a follow up proposal submitted to NASA next year, so many more students can benefit from this great program!"

The Citrus GraviTeam trip is partially funded by the Citrus College Foundation. If you would like to help sponsor these students, please call the Foundation at 626-914-8825.

by Rachel White

To follow GraviTeam's progress online, visit www.citruscollege.edu/academics/microgravity



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Travis Sutton

"I had heard great things about Citrus College and all of them turned out to be true. I appreciated the small class sizes, and I liked that the teachers were always accessible. I graduated at the top of my class at Citrus, and I was accepted to one of the greatest colleges in the country, UCLA. I feel completely prepared to move on and complete my education. It would not have been possible without the opportunities given to me by Citrus."

For scholarship information visit
www.citruscollege.edu/foundation