

# Citrus

Winter 2016

CollegeNewsMagazine



## Visual & Performing Arts Program

ALUMNI • ATHLETICS • CAMPUS • FACULTY & STAFF • FOUNDATION • STUDENTS

# Welcome

Dear Friends,

Throughout its distinguished history, Citrus College has earned a national and international reputation for its outstanding programs in the arts. From musical ensembles such as the internationally acclaimed Citrus Singers to the individual students who have received awards in visual arts competitions, the institution has provided an arts education that has developed students' talents, enriched their lives and enhanced their learning experience. As such, I am pleased to present the winter 2016 issue of *Citrus College News Magazine*.

This issue of the magazine provides an overview of the college's widely acclaimed Visual and Performing Arts Division and focuses on the students, faculty and staff who make the division's academic programs among the finest in the United States offering associate degrees, associate degrees for transfer, and certificates of achievement in 13 programs of study.

As technology continues to shape our culture, educators are keenly aware of the challenges and opportunities that spring from the convergence of art and technology. Citrus College is no exception. Whether our students are working with the most current audio recording technology equipment or mastering a new genre of computer-generated imagery and publishing protocols, incorporating the latest technology into the arts curriculum is a priority.

In 2014, construction began on a new Visual Arts Building, a 37,000-foot structure housing the visual arts programs. The building, which is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2016, will include the technological innovations necessary to prepare students for degrees and careers in the visual arts disciplines. To more fully reflect these innovations, the Citrus Community College District Board of Trustees recently approved a request to change the division name from Fine and Performing Arts to Visual and Performing Arts.

As you read this magazine, I hope you will be inspired to attend a concert at the Haugh Performing Arts Center, enjoy a play at the Little Theater, or view an art exhibit in the Hayden Memorial Library. Thank you for your continued support of Citrus College, *your* community college.

Sincerely,



Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D.  
Superintendent/President



WINTER 2016



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Citrus College Jazz Ensemble

The **Citrus College News Magazine** is an official publication of Citrus College. Your comments and suggestions are welcome. Please e-mail correspondence to [Foundation@citruscollege.edu](mailto:Foundation@citruscollege.edu). Citrus College Foundation, 1000 W. Foothill Blvd., Glendora, CA 91741-1885.

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# Visual and Performing Arts Programs Provide Learning that Enhances Culture

By Stacy Armstrong



This spring, construction on Citrus College's newest facility, the beautiful three-story Visual Arts Building, will be completed. It will house the institution's drawing, painting, computer design, ceramics, sculpture, photography, and art history programs, plus the office of the *Clarion* student newspaper. One of the last construction projects funded by the Measure G bond, this state-of-the-art facility will include 74 classrooms; three computer labs; studios for drawing, painting, and printmaking; an art gallery; a large ceramics lab; and a spacious lecture hall.

The goal of the project is to provide

students with an opportunity to develop their skills in a professional environment defined by ever-changing technological and cultural shifts.

"Utilizing equipment and facilities that meet or exceed industry standards enables our students to consistently deliver exceptional and award winning performances, art projects, and media productions," stated Robert Slack, dean of visual and performing arts.

The impressive new building will enhance programs that have already received acclaim, such as photography.

Designed to help students become proficient in both the artistic and professional aspects of taking and processing photographs, the Citrus College Photography Program teaches environmental, studio and electronic techniques.



Instrumental Music



Photography

Students in the program have won local, state, and national photography contests.

Similarly, aspiring artists studying drawing and painting at Citrus College often have the opportunity to showcase their work in galleries, exhibits, and other venues. While developing their talent and improving their skills is the focus in the classroom, students are also expected to understand the medium's various concepts and theories.

"It is vital that students are equipped with first-hand knowledge of the materials and techniques they are using," explained art instructor Dyane Duffy.

Cultivating the ability to examine pieces of fine art and graphic design for technical and aesthetic concerns, content, and cultural influences is another important aspect of art education at Citrus College. Students in sculpture and graphic design classes, like many other visual and performing arts students, are required to attend two hours of lecture and four hours of lab/studio time per week. Visual arts students also learn how to meet the needs of their clients and adhere to professional standards.

The Ceramics Program provides a hands-on, tactile learning experience where students become adept at throwing, glazing, and using a potter's wheel—in addition to developing greater mental acuity.

"The students are, by and large, a very talented group of individuals. Although they are usually taking ceramics classes to meet the visual arts requirement, most are excited to be enrolled," said Mike Hillman, Citrus College ceramics instructor. "Ceramics, as

with all visual arts, utilizes a 'right side' of the brain type of thinking that is invaluable for developing a creative society and workforce."

As Citrus College looks forward to the opening of the Visual Arts Building, its venerable Performing Arts Program continues to carry out the institution's legacy of performing arts excellence. From the college's earliest years, its student bands, orchestras and choruses have been of the highest quality, and Citrus College performing arts students have gone on to advance the college's reputation for excellence around the world.

The college's music program is primarily responsible for the institution's international acclaim. A recognized leader in music education and performance, Citrus College's vocal, instrumental, theory and history, and musical theatre disciplines stress classical training, solid fundamentals, and practical experience.

"We guide students toward careers and help them through a few of life's hurdles," explains Gunnar Eisel, a long-time music instructor at Citrus College. "Our program integrates various elements of the visual and performing arts, and our goal is to instill excellence in our students."

This excellence is reflected in the program's music groups. The Citrus Singers, Blue Note Swing Orchestra, Sierra Wind Symphony, Night Shift, and Concert Choir provide students with the opportunity to tour the world, develop their performance abilities, and expand their repertoire.

"We prepare students for professional success by providing them with practical education that offers both traditional music education and hands-on performance training," said Douglas Austin Shrope, director of the Citrus Singers. "We seek to enhance their creative and performance abilities and to improve their interpersonal skills."

Since its transition from the physical education to the performing arts division in the late 1990s, the college's Dance Program has flourished. Students study a variety of styles, including jazz, classical ballet, tap, hip-hop and modern as they



Vocal Music



Ceramics

earn an associate degree in dance or a certificate of achievement in commercial dance.

The Citrus College Theatre Arts Program also dates back to the early years of the institution. The program currently offers a creative learning approach aimed at developing the acting, directing, and technical skills necessary for transfer to a four-year university or professional training program.

“A theatre class is designed to provide the student with the skills and knowledge necessary for the stage, and it also helps a student understand the need for responsibility, dedication, and commitment in order to succeed in the professional world,” said theatre arts instructor Cherie Brown.

The Theatre Arts Program produces two full-length, student directed/ designed productions every year. An annual showcase for original material written and performed by Citrus College students is also included in the curriculum, along with several other performance opportunities.

All of the college’s music, dance, and theatre productions receive visual and technical support from the students, faculty and staff of the Emerging Theatre Technology Program (ETT).

ETT, a career education program that offers a certificate of achievement, is one of the newer additions to theatre arts. Instructor Dan Volonte facilitates the curriculum and activities that prepare students for careers in areas involving lighting, stage technology, event video, and project management.

No Performing Arts production would be complete without the assistance of the Recording Technology Program. This associate degree program, introduced nearly 17 years ago, grooms students for careers in audio technology and recording, post-production, and live sound



Theatre Arts

reinforcement. The program is very popular and enrollment is highly competitive.

“Our courses are designed to prepare a student for a career in the recording technology and entertainment media industries,” said Stephen O’Hara, one of the program’s founding faculty members. “We are continuously updating and improving the facility and technology in our department to meet the ever-evolving technical demands and requirements of the industry.”

The Citrus College Visual and Performing Arts Program will continue to develop the artists, musicians, performers and technicians that engage and inspire the world—thanks to its state of the art facilities; innovative, dedicated faculty and staff; and talented students.



Recording Technology

# Faculty & Staff

## Instructor Teaches Art as a Life Enhancement

Helping students appreciate art is Dr. Maryann Rachford's forte.

The visual arts instructor, who teaches classes that include art history, beginning drawing and commercial graphic design, has taught full time at Citrus College for 18 years. Throughout her career, Rachford has demonstrated how the visual arts intersect every aspect of students' lives.



"What I enjoy about teaching is seeing how art can expand students' perceptions and their potential for growth," Rachford said.

In addition to the aesthetic and personal benefits of an arts education, Rachford is aware of the academic importance of a visual arts curriculum. "Most of my students are not art majors, except the ones in the computer graphics classes," she explained. "Therefore, many of them have little knowledge of art when they begin a class."

Sometimes, those students provide the greatest career satisfaction. "Near the end of one semester, one of my drawing students thanked me," Rachford recalled. "She said her husband no longer laughed at her drawings. To me, this was success."

Rachford has extensive experience as an educator and an artist. A community college graduate, she holds a bachelor's degree in painting and printmaking, and a master's degree in film art direction and graphic design from California State University, Los Angeles. In addition, she has a doctorate in art education from Azusa Pacific University. Rachford, who has worked as an art director and a creative director, owns a graphic design company, and her work has been featured in a variety of art shows and galleries.

However, it is the Visual and Performing Arts Program that fuels her commitment to education. "We have a nice cohesion between the visual and performing arts," she said. "The department has grown, and I anticipate this will continue in the future—especially with the completion of the new Visual Arts Building."

### Autumn Esparza: Above and Beyond Excellence



Autumn Esparza, administrative secretary II for the Visual and Performing Arts Division, is the consummate professional. On any given day, she assists students, faculty and staff with the requests and challenges that affect her division and Citrus College, at a level of expertise that earned her the college's Above and Beyond Classified Development Award in July 2014.

An employee for 11 years, Autumn was a Citrus College student when she began working in the Visual and Performing Arts Division. She earned two associate degrees from the college and transferred to California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) where she completed a bachelor's degree in Child and Adolescent Development. She is currently working on her master's degree in guidance and counseling at CSUSB.

"I enjoy getting to know the students and helping them with their journey at Citrus," said Autumn. "I never know if I will see Shrek, students dressed up for The Rocky Horror Picture Show, or Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Every day is different!"

# Students

## *Visual and Performing Arts Students Advance to Transfer and Career Opportunities*

### **Javier Martinez**

In June 2015, Javier Martinez achieved his first phase of college completion.

Martinez, a La Puente resident, earned associate in arts degrees in two subject areas—fine and performing arts and language arts. He is currently a junior at California State University, Long Beach, where he is majoring in art education.

When asked how Citrus College prepared him for transfer and career preparation, his response was enthusiastic and concise, “How did it not?”

During his tenure as a Citrus College student, Martinez was engaged in both the academic and the extracurricular activities of the Ceramics Program. A student worker, Martinez interacted with other departments and assisted with events such as the annual Visual and Performing Arts Open House for high school students. In fact, after graduation he returned to the college to assist with Gumbyfest, a two-day celebration of the cartoon icon’s 60th birthday. Martinez was one of several ceramics students who assisted ceramics faculty member Mike Hillman and others with workshops during the event.

Reflecting on his experiences as a Citrus College student, Martinez praised his instructors and the staff who “pushed me to my limits and beyond” to ensure his success.

“I couldn’t have done my best without the guidance of (instructors) Elaine Moore and Mark Wessel. They helped me improve my skills, which allowed my creativity and craftsmanship to improve. Mike Hillman and Dyane Duffy also taught me what it is like to work as an artist, and how to work efficiently.”

In addition to the academic preparation that the Visual Arts Program provides, Martinez also received student support services that facilitated his academic journey.

“My counselor Maria LeDuc and the DSP&S (Disabled Students Programs and Services) staff helped me with my academic schedule, and they did everything in their power to point me in the right direction,” he recalled.



Javier Martinez (left) and Citrus College student Ida Tyus (right) pose for a selfie during Gumbyfest.

Martinez’ goals include completing his bachelor’s degree and then earning a masters in fine arts in ceramics. His graduate studies will focus on glaze chemistry, a specialized skill that will allow him to develop ceramic glazes that are safe for food storage. Martinez also plans to emulate his faculty mentors by teaching art history and ceramics at the high school and college levels, and he hopes to someday open a studio in his parents’ hometown in Mexico,

As he continues his life journey, the new Citrus College alumnus is optimistic and grateful.

“Some people don’t think that one can make a career in art. I believe it is not about the money you make or your job level. It’s about doing your best at what you love to do, he said.” Thank you to all of the faculty



# ACTING MASTER CLASS

and staff whom I encountered while I was at Citrus, you all made it an enjoyable experience.”

## Yanlin Pan

Yanlin Pan’s academic interest in theater production began at Linyi University in China, where he majored in children’s television production. His desire for more educational opportunities in his subject area led him to Citrus College, where he is currently a student in the Emerging Theater Technologies Program (ETT).

More than two years later, Yanlin—or Lucas as he prefers to be called—is honing his craft at the quintessential children’s entertainment venue, Disneyland. He is an entertainment stage manager intern, a position he describes as “a dream come true.”

“Studying abroad has allowed me to enlarge my perspective,” Lucas said. “Citrus College has promoted my knowledge of theater arts by allowing me to gain skills for different positions, such as stage technician and stage manager.”

Lucas also acknowledges his fellow classmates and ETT Program instructor Dan Volonte for their patient assistance in helping him during his first months as an international student enrolled in a highly technical class.

“They helped me take class notes and they explained everything in detail,” Lucas said. “Eventually, I learned to operate complex consoles, and we created some fantastic projects together.”

While Lucas hopes to establish a permanent career with Disneyland and The Walt Disney Company, he is cognizant of the importance of continuing his college education.

“A college education provides crucial building blocks that will prepare me for my career,” he said. “My academic goal is to go to a four-year university in order to consolidate these building blocks.”

As Lucas completes his education and builds his career, Citrus College will remain an important part of his life.

“My dream is always the same: to take what I learned from Citrus College and make the audience happy.”

“A college education provides crucial building blocks that will prepare me for my career,” he said. “My academic goal is to go to a four-year university in order to consolidate these building blocks.”

– Yanlin Pan “Lucas”



Yanlin Pan “Lucas” (center) with Disneyland coworkers.

# Students

## *My Citrus Story Highlights College Completion and Career Achievements*

Since 2008, the Citrus College Language Arts Division, under the direction of Dr. Samuel Lee, has compiled the narratives of the college's alumni. In early 2015, several Visual and Performing Arts alumni were featured in the series, including Ghazi Hourani of the Recording Technology Program; Kara Lundie, of the Emerging Theatre Technology Program; and Anthony Logerfo of the Instrumental Music Program.



**Ghazi Hourani**

### **Ghazi Hourani** **Recording Technology Program**

My interest in recording music began while I was enrolled at a local college. Having taken a few recording classes, I knew that recording was my passion and ultimate career path. One of my instructors recommended that I consider the Recording Technology Program at Citrus College. I toured the campus and immediately knew it was the place for me. The program offered hands on training which was crucial to my future success.

Citrus College helped me take my passion to the next level by introducing me to a number of highly regarded industry professionals. Legendary music producer Ed Cherney was the keynote speaker at my graduation. Also in attendance was his wife Rose Mann-Cherney, president of the world-renowned Record Plant Recording Studios. This was a unique opportunity for me to speak with Rose one-on-one, schedule an interview, and ultimately gain a position at Record Plant.

Since then I have worked with a diverse range of artists that include Lady Gaga, Elton John, Bette Midler, The Offspring, and Lil' Wayne. In addition to music, the program covered all aspects of post-production. I use these

skills every day in my current position as an audio mixer at 20th Century Fox.

I would not be where I am today without the Recording Technology Program and the amazing teachers at Citrus. Their influence was essential to my development as an audio engineer. I am proud to call the teachers my friends and colleagues.

### **Kara Lundie** **Emerging Theatre Technology**

Backstage theater technology was a big part of my life at Claremont High School, and I knew I wanted to make it my career.

Enrolling at Citrus allowed me to make my dream come true. The Emerging Theatre Technologies Program allowed me to use state-of-the-art theatrical equipment which prepared me for my future in theater. The program extended beyond lighting into audio and production management, which gave me an edge in a very competitive field.

Citrus helped place me in an internship that resulted in full-time employment in production technology, the career of my choice. Because of the required professional internship and the hands-on curriculum, I was able to go directly from the classroom to working on high profile shows



**Kara Lundie**

like The Ellen Show, Coachella Music Festival, The Grammy Awards, and The Oscars.

I am grateful to Professor Dan Volonte for creating an immersive program that covers a broad variety of usable technical skills. I am also very thankful to Dan Vilter. Together we rebuilt the audio system in The Haugh Performing Arts Center at Citrus.

I want to thank the faculty and staff for my experiences at Citrus, and my exciting career that has followed.

### **Anthony Logerfo** **Instrumental Music**

Sitting in the recording studio looking up from my drums, I could see a tall microphone and a big red pedal board that belonged to my lifelong rock hero, Neil Young. I was preparing for a recording we were about to make. Neil was scheduled to arrive in just a few days.

Flash back in time to when I first started at Citrus. I was just another rock 'n roll drummer, far from the all-star I aspired to become. Professor Bob Slack told us that if we wanted to be musicians, we needed to play our instruments as many hours as our parents worked in a week. I took his advice and began playing drums ten hours a day.

When I wasn't practicing, I used to visit in Alan Waddington's office and listen to Neil Young records. One day I told Alan that if I could play with any artist, it would be Neil. Alan never doubted that my dream was within reach.

After completing the music program, I formed a band with Willie Nelson's son, Lukas Nelson. Alan previously introduced me to Lukas at a Neil Young Concert. Lukas and I toured together for five years playing over 250 shows a year. During that time we backed up legendary artists such as Willie Nelson and BB King.

Flash forward: the day I dreamt about finally arrived. Neil walked in the door – and it was “go time.” Neil started jamming on his guitar, Ol' Black. All my hard work paid off, and my dreams had come true!

I am so thankful to Alan Waddington, Bob Slack, and all



**Anthony Logerfo**

the Citrus faculty for giving me the skills, confidence, and work ethic I needed to make it as a professional musician.

**To read more My Citrus Stories, visit [www.citruscollege.edu/mycitrusstory](http://www.citruscollege.edu/mycitrusstory). Alumni who are interested in sharing their experiences are encouraged to do so by clicking “Tell Your Story” on the webpage.**

# Alumni News

## *One Class at a Time: My Long Road to Academic Success*

**By Donna R. Phillips**

I will never forget my Citrus College commencement ceremony in May of 2007. I had attended Citrus in my twenties, but left because I could no longer fit school between the two jobs, plus overtime, I needed to work to support myself. I was 41 years old when I returned.

As I waited to accept my diploma, a movie played through my mind. I recalled the many hours I had spent with my son as we both concentrated on our homework; my husband patiently tutoring me in algebra and our elation when I passed the final; and the yard sales I held to pay for my books. When the announcer called my name and said, "with very high honors," I broke into a smile. I had a great reason for that smile, because I had been accepted into Pitzer College's "New

Resources Program" for students 26 and older. In order to graduate debt-free, I took one class each semester. As I attended classes at Pitzer and the other Claremont Colleges, I could see that Citrus College had prepared me for this next academic step.

In May 2013, I graduated—debt-free and with honors—from Pitzer College with a bachelor's degree in English literature and creative writing. I was accepted to Claremont Graduate University, and in May 2016, I will be graduating, debt-free, with a master's degree in English literature with a focus on nineteenth century British literature. My next goal is to teach English at a community college.

Citrus College provided me with the academic skills I needed to thrive in the challenging realms of higher education. At Citrus College, I grew both academically and personally,



**Donna Phillips, Class of 2007**

and working for the college's newspaper, the *Clarion*, honed my writing skills. I am thankful for the affordable education Citrus College provided, and for the excellent faculty and staff who inspired me. Citrus College provides a welcoming atmosphere for people of all ages who have made the important decision to empower their lives and futures through education.



**Bob Bartlett speaks at a dedication ceremony for a Monrovia street named after him, 2014.**

*Photo by Terry Miller, Monrovia Weekly*

### **In Memoriam: Robert "Bob" Bartlett**

Former Monrovia Mayor Robert "Bob" Bartlett, recipient of the 1982 Citrus College Alumni Achievement Award, passed away on October 11, 2015. A transportation company executive, Bartlett graduated from Citrus College in 1969, and he was an assistant football coach at the college for 13 years.

Recognized for his leadership in Monrovia's extensive redevelopment efforts during the 1970s and 1980s, Bartlett was the first African American elected to the Monrovia City Council in 1978. He was elected mayor in 1988 and held the position for 13 years. Bartlett's survivors include five sons and daughters, five grandchildren, three brothers, and one sister.

### **Attention Alumni!**

Please continue to keep in touch! Send your updates to [alumni@citruscollege.edu](mailto:alumni@citruscollege.edu) or contact us at 626-914-8825.

# Alumni Achiever

## Col. Keith D. Bushey



**Col. Keith D. Bushey, 2015 Alumni Achievement Award recipient**

Keith D. Bushey's numerous accomplishments as a military officer and a law enforcement professional span 50 years.

Bushey, who is currently a senior faculty member for the FBI Law Enforcement Development Association, attended Duarte High School and earned an associate degree from Citrus College in 1968. He holds a bachelor's degree in police administration and a master's degree in public service from California State University, Los Angeles.

Bushey has earned a distinguished record in both the military and law enforcement. He first served in the United States Marine Corps from 1961-1965, achieving the rank of corporal. Upon his discharge, Bushey joined the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department as a deputy, beginning a career that spans five decades. He was a commander for the

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); the San Bernardino County Marshal; deputy chief of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; and law enforcement liaison for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

In 1970, Bushey, on a leave of absence from the LAPD, returned to the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant. For the next 18 years, he served in a variety of reserve units and advanced to lieutenant colonel. In 1989, during the Persian Gulf War, Bushey commanded the 3rd Air-Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, which destroyed 230 Iraqi armored vehicles during the liberation of Kuwait. Bushey retired from the military in 1998 at the rank of colonel.

In addition to his military and law enforcement careers, Bushey is a writer and lecturer. He has authored four books on law enforcement and the military, and he has published articles in professional journals. Bushey also lectures and conducts staff

development workshops for law enforcement organizations throughout the United States and Canada.

The 2015 Distinguished Alumnus is also a former Citrus College adjunct faculty member. For more than 20 years, he was a part-time instructor in both the college's Administration of Justice Program and the Supervision Program.

Bushey and his wife Cathy are the biological parents of three children. As short-term and long-term foster parents, they have also cared for an estimated 30 children. Bushey's extensive community service includes vice president of the Marine Corps youth program, Devil Pups, Inc., and he is a member of the Desert Refuge for Peace Officers board of trustees. He donates 100 percent of the revenue earned from his books equally to Devil Pups, Desert Refuge for Peace Officers, Make a Wish Foundation, and City of Hope National Medical Center.



**Col. Keith D. Bushey (front row, second from left) and former Alumni Achievement Award recipients**

# Foundation

## Foundation Honors Scholarship Recipients

The Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors, donors, and members of the Citrus College community recognized the college's transferring, continuing and new students at the Foundation's sixth annual "Educating the Next Generation" Scholarship Reception on August 13, 2015.

Nearly 200 students received 88 scholarships totaling nearly \$130,000. These financial awards will allow the students to complete the next phase of their education at a four-year college or university; continue their studies at Citrus College; or enter the college as freshmen. The students are pursuing a variety of majors and career paths that include architecture, science, health care, education, law enforcement, the performing arts, business and more.

The scholarships were made possible by the generosity of Foundation donors, including the Associated Students of Citrus College. Eight new scholarships were also awarded, several of them established in memory of community leaders, alumni and faculty.

During the reception, Citrus College Foundation President Brian Bowcock urged the scholarship recipients to "remember their roots" by getting involved in the alumni association after they complete their studies at the college. He spoke of how his granddaughter's scholarship from the Foundation, years earlier, facilitated her graduation from Citrus College's dental assisting program.

Two scholarship recipients spoke during the reception, Bassam Theodory, a fall 2015 transfer student to the University of California, Riverside and Kendall Gagliano, a second-year student at Citrus College.



Scholarship recipients Bassam Theodory (left) and Kendall Gagliano (right) shared their college experiences at the Citrus College Foundation's "Educating the Next Generation" Scholarship Reception.

Theodory, who is from Syria, described the college as a "second home" where he found a supportive community, plus an academic environment that fueled his passion for biochemistry. Gagliano, a biological science major, shared how she overcame medical challenges, became president of Citrus College's Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, and led the organization to raise funds for biomedical research.

"From its beginnings, Citrus College has championed and rewarded the principles of academic achievement that develop productive and informed citizens," stated Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "The Citrus College community is grateful to the individuals and organizations who support the Citrus College Foundation in its efforts to foster college completion."

# The Misner Scholars Program: Creating a Network of College Graduates



Dr. & Mrs. Ivan Misner

Citrus College alumnus Ivan Misner and his wife Elisabeth (Beth) exemplify the important connection between college completion and career success. Ivan Misner, who grew up in Azusa, received the first two years of his college education at Citrus College. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal Poly Pomona, and received a Ph.D. in organizational behavior from the University of Southern California.

Ivan is the founder and chair of BNI, the world's largest business networking company. The New York Times best-selling author has written 19 books on business networking, and he is a frequent speaker at business conferences. Ivan has also received numerous honors that include Citrus College's Alumni Achievement Award in 2011 and the Community College League of California's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2014.

Beth Misner is the cofounder and chair of the BNI Foundation, an organization that contributes to charities around the world. She is a graduate of Ambassador College, where she earned degrees in

theology and Spanish. As an author and lecturer, Beth has collaborated with her husband and others—including former Astronaut Buzz Aldrin—on several books. The Misners have three adult children.

Ivan Misner acknowledges Citrus College as the gateway to his advanced degrees and his professional success, describing the college as an institution that “taught me the value of critical thinking and laid the ground work for immersing and engaging in a lifelong culture of learning.” This affinity for Citrus College has inspired the Misners to donate a grant to establish the Misner Scholars Program through the college's newly formed Institute For Completion. The IFC and its programs are under the direction of Dr. Kathryn Jameson-Meledy.

The Misners are widely respected for their support of education programs, and they believe that education is the best investment a business can make in strengthening the local economy. The Misner Scholars Program will be open to full-time students at Citrus College. These students must fulfill several requirements that include signing a pledge to complete their associate degree or certificate program at the college; maintaining a 3.25 GPA; developing and completing an educational plan; working closely with their academic counselors; and participating in the workshops and activities designed to ensure their completion.

Misner Scholars who complete 12 or more units and maintain the required GPA during an academic year, as well as those who transfer to an accredited four-year institution after completing the program, will receive monetary awards.

“Dr. Misner stands as an authority on the benefits of completing college,” said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. “His advocacy of community college education and, specifically, his generous support of Citrus College will significantly increase students' ability to complete their education and reach their goals.”

# Athletics

## *The Fighting Owls: A Legacy of Inspirational Coaches and Stellar Athletes*

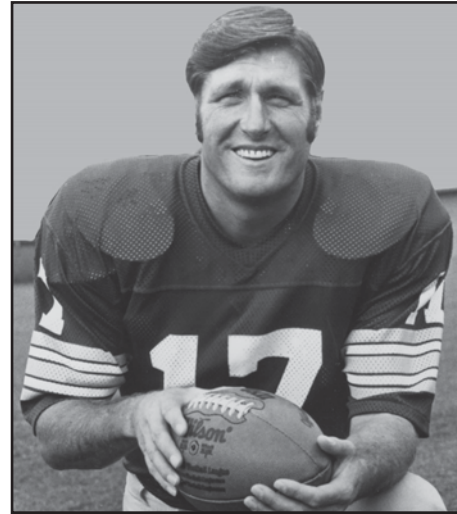
By Paula Green and Andrew Wheeler

Throughout Citrus College's history, its Athletics Program has prepared numerous students to excel in their athletic endeavors, complete their educational goals, matriculate to four-year institutions, and establish successful careers.

The college's sports legacy began in 1926 with the formation of its first football team. Dale Glick was the team's first head coach, as well as the men's basketball, baseball, and track and field coach. By the 1950s, the college's athletics roster included the men's golf and cross country teams, coached by Buzzy Smyth and Ross Handy, respectively. The men's water polo team, formed in 1965, was the first Citrus College sports team to win a state championship in 1999, an accomplishment that earned Coach Bill Ralls an induction into the 2011 California Community College Water Polo Hall of Fame. In 1990, the college added men's soccer to its sports roster with Joe Archer as coach.

Citrus College's female students were unable to compete in intercollegiate athletics for nearly 60 years. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibited gender discrimination in any federally funded educational program or activity, and thus extended opportunities for women to become student athletes. The Citrus College Athletics Program flourished. Instructor Marilyn Gunstream organized the first competitive women's volleyball and swim teams in 1976. Under her direction, the volleyball team achieved unprecedented success, winning four conference championships during the 1980s.

In addition, the first women's cross country team was formed in 1977 with Vince O'Boyle as head coach. Frank Anderson organized the women's basketball program in 1978, and Dale Philpot coached the first softball team in 1979. Women's water polo was added in 1995,



Bill Kilmer, Citrus College, UCLA and NFL football great.

coached by Robert Fleming. Tim Tracey has led the women's soccer program since 1996, and in 2001, women's golf was added with Coach Trip Horton at the helm.

In addition to the contributions of the trail blazing coaches previously mentioned, special tributes should be paid to track and field coach Ed Conly and football coaches John Strycula and Robert "Skip" Clapgood.

The most skilled of coaches, however, cannot succeed without talented athletes. Citrus College alumni Bill Kilmer and Ruth Wysocki achieved national and international acclaim for their athletic achievements on the gridiron and the track.

Kilmer played football for the Owls during the 1957 season and set records that remain unbroken. He transferred to UCLA, where he played for three years and was fifth in the Heisman Trophy voting during his senior season. Kilmer went on to play 16 seasons in the National Football League (NFL) with the San Francisco 49ers, the New Orleans Saints, and the NFL's Washington franchise. During the 1972 season, Kilmer led Washington to their first Super Bowl, where they played against the undefeated Miami Dolphins.

Ruth Wysocki's storied athletic career began at Azusa High School, where she won the California State High School Championship in the 800-meter event. She attended Citrus College and competed in track and cross-country for two years, becoming the only Fighting Owl to receive Citrus College's Athlete of the Year honor for two consecu-



tive years.

Wysocki continued to excel in the 400-meter and 800-meter races at the University of Redlands. She garnered national attention at the 1978 United States Track and Field Championships, upsetting favorite Mary Decker in the 800-meter run. Wysocki competed for nearly 20 years, finishing sixth in the 800-meter event at the 1984 Summer Olympics and seventh in the 1,500-meter run at the 1995 World Championships.

The Fighting Owls' successes have continued into the 21st century. The men's basketball team won its second state championship in 2008, when former Coach Rick Croy led them to a 35-1 record and a victory over Fullerton College in the California Community Colleges Athletics Association (CCCAA) State Championship game. Softball Coach Jackie Boxley has spurred the Owls to eight post-season appearances, with two Western State Conference titles and the first round of the CCCAA "Super Regional" playoff game in May 2015. In fall 2015, the women's cross country team, under the direction of Coach Alicia Longyear, celebrated one of its most successful seasons in its history, finishing 11th in the state. In addition, Coach Horton led the women's golf team to second place in the 2015 CCCAA Women's Golf State Championship.

Football Coach Ron Ponciano has guided the Owls to back-to-back bowl games, including the program's first bowl win in 25 years at Saddleback



Ruth Wysocki, Olympian and Citrus College Athlete of the Year

College's 2013 Beach Bowl. Coach Shin Jung directed the women's volleyball team to the playoffs for two consecutive years, while the Citrus College Women's Soccer Program, under the leadership of Coach Tracey, qualified for the playoffs in 2012 and again in 2013.

The Fighting Owls' successes are not limited to the pool, courts, and playing fields. In 2006, the Athletics Program introduced Scholar Baller®, a national program that recognizes student athletes who maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA. The number of students qualifying for the program has increased every year, including a record 114 Scholar Ballers during the 2014-2015 academic year. In addition, during the 2014-2015 academic year, 60 percent of sophomore athletes matriculated to a four-year college or university.



Citrus College's 2015 "Scholar Ballers" and well-wishers

# Campus

## College Receives Student Success Award

Citrus College was one of two California community colleges to receive the 2015 Chancellor's Student Success Award for its achievements in supporting students as they attain their higher education goals.

California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris presented the award on November 20, 2015, during the Community College League of California annual conference.

The college was recognized for its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Summer Research Experience (SRE) Program. The SRE Program has led to an increase in students completion and transfer in STEM programs, including a 237 percent increase in STEM degree production and a 126 percent increase in STEM transfers to CSU and UC campuses over the past six years.

"I am deeply honored to accept the 2015 Chancellor's Student Success Award on behalf of Citrus College," said Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. "Being recognized by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges for 'innovative work that reflects, achieves, and improves student access, equity, and success,' is a highpoint in the institution's 100 year history."



## Gold Line Station Dedicated

On September 19, 2015, Citrus College's advocacy and support of the Foothill Extension of the Metro Gold Line was recognized during the dedication of the Azusa Downtown and the APU/Citrus College Gold Line stations.

Superintendent/President Geraldine M. Perri, Ph.D. was one of 13 officials invited to speak at the dedication ceremony, which drew an estimated 1,000 people. Among the many local dignitaries in attendance were board members Mrs. Joanne Montgomery; Mrs. Susan M. Keith; and Dr. Barbara R. Dickerson. Also present were Citrus College Academic Senate President Alfie Swan and Associated Students of Citrus College President Cameron Wisdom.

"I am very proud of the role Citrus College has played in bringing this segment of the Gold Line to Citrus College," Dr. Perri stated. "The entire college community has been very active in advocating for the Gold Line as a way to improve access to higher education for thousands of people in and beyond the San Gabriel Valley."



## World War II Heroes Honored at Reception

On November 15, 2015, Citrus College, the Norwegian Consul, and Sons of Norway honored World War II veteran Howard Dobbs and Norwegian resistance fighter Helge Heimdahl for their bravery during the country's liberation from Nazi Germany. The event, sponsored by the Citrus College Foundation, drew more than 100 guests that included the honorees' family members and community leaders.

The reception was held prior to the final performance of *The Epiphany*, a play written by Dr. Bruce Solheim, history instructor, and directed by Neil H. Weiss, adjunct theatre arts faculty, about the Norwegian resistance to Nazi occupation during World War II.





### **Vice President of Student Services Appointed**

Dr. Martha McDonald is Citrus College's new vice president of student services. She joined the college community in 2004 as the director of the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services, Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education, and the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility for Kids (EOP&S/CARE/CalWORKs) departments. She held this position until 2007, when she became Citrus College's dean of students.

Dr. McDonald was appointed interim executive dean in 2013. In this role, she supported the vice president of student services and acted as the chief management officer of the Student Affairs Programs.

Dr. McDonald holds both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling from Chapman University, as well as a doctorate in education with a concentration in community college leadership from California State University, Fullerton. She is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



### **Community College Educator Heads Completion Efforts**

Dr. Kathryn Jameson-Meledy joined the Citrus College community in August 2015 as the director of the college's newly established Institute For Completion (IFC). A 15-year veteran of the California community college system, Dr. Jameson-Meledy has extensive knowledge of educational processes and institutional strategies that will serve the IFC well.

Institutional planning, development, and grant management operations are among Dr. Jameson-Meledy's areas of expertise. She has managed programs and special projects that have increased student access, equity and completion.

A United States Navy veteran and former business owner, Dr. Jameson-Meledy, holds an associate of science degree from Moorpark College. She also earned a bachelor's degree in business management and a master's degree in public policy and administration from California Lutheran University, as well as a doctorate in organizational development from Grand Canyon University.



### **Administrator Receives Community Award**

The Duarte Education Foundation recently honored Dr. Arvid Spor, vice president of academic affairs, as a 2015 Community Dignitary during the annual "It Takes a Village. . ." fundraising event.

"Dr. Spor's commitment to student success is inspirational," said Dr. Geraldine M. Perri, Citrus College superintendent/president. "I am confident that his efforts will lead to enhanced student success for Citrus College."

Dr. Spor, who has also served as the college's vice president of student services, was recognized for his leadership role in the success of Duarte High School's Early College Program and Citrus College's Early Decision Program. Under his leadership, more Duarte Unified School District students are attending Citrus College, and they are completing the college's associate degree and career technical certificate programs, in addition to transferring to a four-year college or university.



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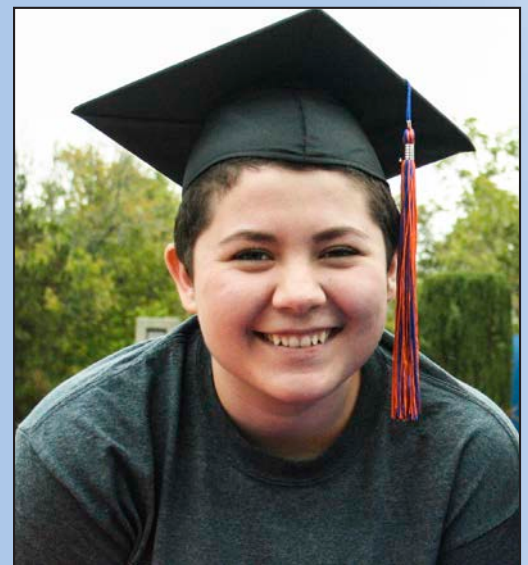
## First, Citrus College Next, California State University, Los Angeles

### Tanaya Rose Cenicerros

*I have loved and excelled in history for as long as I can remember. However, as I grew up and felt pressure to find a “real” career, I abandoned my favorite subject. My first history class at Citrus College renewed my passion for the subject.*

*I applied to Citrus College through the Early Decision program. Once I began my college studies, I found mentors who encouraged me to graduate and transfer to California State University, Los Angeles. Today, I am a history major and an anthropology minor. I plan to teach high school and earn both a master’s degree and a Ph.D.*

*My Citrus College experience was amazing! I made many friends, and I am eternally grateful to the faculty who helped me succeed.*



**Tanaya Rose Cenicerros**  
Class of 2015



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