

Crafton Hills College

President's Report to the Board

Gloria Macias Harrison
June 11, 2009



(To read more about these items, please see the "News" link at the CHC website: www.craftonhills.edu)

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE CLASS OF 2009 CELEBRATES COMMENCEMENT

The Crafton Hills College graduating class of 2009 enjoyed the support of a large and enthusiastic audience in May as the graduates' families and friends expressed their pride with loud applause and cheering while each graduate was awarded their respective diplomas. The class ranged in age from 18 to 57 years old, with the average age being 26. The average grade point average was 3.13. The number of students eligible for commencement was 308. The keynote speaker was Redlands Police Chief Jim Bueermann, who is a 1977 CHC alumnus. At CHC, Bueermann majored in administration of justice. "Crafton Hills gave me a notion of the future," Bueermann said. "I knew that either I grabbed the future at that point, or I would watch it go by me." CHC was the beginning of what would be a long and successful career for Bueermann in law enforcement.



Bueermann said that for at least the first half of his career, there were not computers. Now, computers are everywhere and changing the world constantly. "I've never seen this rate of change before," he said, adding that it is difficult to plan too far in advance with the rapid changes happening in technology. He advised the graduates to be aware and ready for this constant change. He noted that IBM has predicted that in the near future, the world's knowledge "will double every 11 hours." He emphasized the importance of an education in today's world and the ability to view crisis situations as opportunities for new ideas and positive change. He advised the students to donate their time to their communities and to the success of future generations. Referring to a famous quote, Bueermann said "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit." For more information and photos, see the CHC website newsletter.



TOP STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT HONORS CONVOCATION

It was a proud night for 164 Crafton Hills College (CHC) students, who were recently recognized for outstanding achievement during CHC's Honors Celebration, the college's annual event for distributing



scholarships and recognizing community service. Family, friends, faculty, and fellow students attended the event to watch and support the college's top students as they received their respective honors. Twenty-two-year-old business major Arcadio Torres of Yucaipa was presented with the President's Award, which is considered the college's most prestigious award of the night. It is awarded to a student who maintains a high grade point average and contributes time and service to the community and college. "When you see a problem, instead of complaining, get people together to make a change," said Torres, who founded the CHC chapter of the business organization Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) and served as the 2007-2008 Associated Student President. "The people who are innovative and create change are those who create new

opportunities for others. That's what keeps the world going. What is needed heavily in the world is for people to learn more about how to collaborate. We need to bring people together to make change for the better."

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Anyone visiting the CHC campus right now will immediately notice lots of dirt, noise, and construction activity as the college builds and modernizes to keep up with an ever changing and growing region. Standing at the top of the steps of the Lab Administration Building, one can see all the activity and start to visualize how the campus will look within the next two years. Most immediately noticeable is the work being done to the campus quadrangle. The day after commencement, crews began demolishing the old quadrangle, including taking out the trees and demolishing the tree planters, floor of the quadrangle, and the wall by the Performing Arts Center. Meanwhile, ditches have been dug and the installation of new, modern infrastructure has begun in the quadrangle area, just as it has been installed throughout other parts of the campus. By the end of the summer, a new quadrangle will have been built, including grassy areas and new trees. In the distance, one can see the steel framework of the LRC/Library being erected against the blue sky. Between the Student Services Building and quadrangle, the construction crew has begun the construction of the "Living Wall," which will have a path for students and will include plants and alcoves for studying and socializing. In front of the PAC, new landscaping has begun. Meanwhile, on the other side of campus the framework for the Community Recreation Center is being erected, and the grading for parking lots has begun. Behind the cafeteria, the first new parking lot has been paved and will be open for fall. Later, the parking lot behind the cafeteria will be expanded into a parking structure. It's an exciting time for the college.



CHC RECOGNIZES EOPS AND CARE SCHOLARS AND GRADUATES

Crafton Hills College held their annual Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOP&S) and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) scholar and graduation ceremony in May. The annual event was held in the Performing Arts Center and honored 35 graduates and 70 scholars. CHC President Gloria Macias Harrison eloquently expressed enthusiasm and extended congratulatory remarks to the students and their families. The speaker of the evening, Tracy Johnson, a CHC alumna and former CHC EOPS student, is a prime example of that perseverance. See full article for more about Johnson's speech.



INTRODUCING THE 2009-2010 CHC ASSOCIATED STUDENT PRESIDENT



Twenty-year-old Moises Valencia, a science major, was recently elected to serve as the CHC Associated Student President. Valencia is always beaming, especially when he talks about his recent accomplishment of being elected Student Senate president. "It feels great," Valencia said. "All my hard work and time has paid off. I will have a lot of responsibilities ahead and will do my very best to fulfill all of them. I look forward to working with the other new Student Senate members and want to sincerely congratulate them." Valencia was born and raised in Mexico. He moved here in 2002 with his father, Eduardo; mother, Armida; and three siblings. Although the family was happy in Mexico, they came here to live the American dream with all the

hopes and aspirations therein. Valencia had no prior English language experience before moving here. Not only did he have to overcome many cultural obstacles, he had to learn an entirely new language. He did and he flourished. His personal motto is "El que persevera alcanza." Translated, it means, "He that perseveres will obtain his goals." Valencia, a Redlands resident, has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Crafton Hills College. "Crafton is a wonderful school," Valencia said. "I've had great professors here." Valencia has a current grade point average of 3.6 and is active in school activities. His major interests are biotechnology, human genetic engineering, and math. He plans on attending a four-year university when he graduates from CHC. As an individual who values education, he encourages all people to give college a shot.

CHC SAYS GOODBYE TO 12 AT RETIREMENT PARTY

Crafton Hills College (CHC) has an unprecedented 12 employees retiring this June. With the California State economic crisis, CHC, as well as all community colleges, are impacted. A few months prior, eligible staff were offered an early retirement package as an incentive to free up funds. Several administrators and teaching professors chose to take an early retirement. Others chose to leave strictly for personal reasons. In celebration of those leaving CHC, there was a retirement party held at the Mill Creek in Mentone on May 21. The event was bittersweet for many who attended. CHC President Gloria Harrison addressed the large crowd. "Everyone here has been wonderful" said Harrison. "Crafton Hills College is an excellent, quality institution; thanks to all of you. I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the years." Those retiring, their current titles, and the number of years they have worked for the San Bernardino Community College District are:



- **Mark Snowwhite**, English Professor -- 41 years
- **Laurens Thurman**, Dean of Math and Sciences and Health/PE – 37 years.
- **Counselor Arnie Kosmatka**, Counselor -- 31 years
- **Diana Heemstra**, CHC Bookstore Manager -- 31 years.
- **Carol Burns**, Microbiology Lab Technician and Adjunct Faculty -- 25 years
- **Sandra Andrews**, Emergency Medical Services Professor -- 24 years.
- **Judith Ashton**, Dean of Humanities and Social Science -- 24 years
- **Donna Ferracone**, Dean of Career and Technical Education – More than 20 years
- **Patrick Fite**, Marketing Director -- 22 years
- **Pat Saenz**, Teaching Aids -- 20 years
- **Alex Contreras**, Vice President of Student Services -- 13 years
- **Michael Davenport**, Computer and Information Science Professor – 9 years

CHC CALENDAR;

CHC is offering two summer sessions:

8-Week Classes: June 1 – July 23

6-Week Classes: June 15 – July 23

Fall Semester 2009:

Fall Classes: August 17 – December 19

Registration Dates for Fall Semester 2009

June 22 – July 12 – Priority Registration

July 13 - August 16 -- Open Registration



CRAFTON OUTREACH:

YUCAIPA IRIS FESTIVAL

The Financial Aid Office set up an informational booth at Yucaipa's annual, three-day Iris Festival held at the Yucaipa Community Park. College representatives answered questions from the public and provided materials about the college at the following events



CLASS SCHEDULES DISTRIBUTED TO HIGH SCHOOLS

In May, the Marketing Office delivered fall class schedules to local high schools, libraries, and chambers of commerce. Additionally, fall schedules were bulk mailed to all the high schools in the district, including the San Bernardino, Colton-Bloomington, Rialto School, Redlands, and Yucaipa-Calimesa School Districts.

INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS SET UP AT MARKET NIGHT

During May and June, an information booth has been set up at Redlands Market Night.

