

#### **March 2019**



## **CHC Foundation comes to the rescue!**



#### To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Eligió Ramírez, and this is my first semester here at Crafton. I carpool with my girlfriend to and from the town of Forest Falls about 24 miles from Crafton. Our two front tires have been in poor condition for the last few months (bald with wires poking out and Kevlar showing), and on our way to school this morning, we found that our front right tire was completely flat. We can hardly afford to pay for gas, let alone to cover a new tire or two. It would be inexplicably helpful if your foundation could provide us with a fair emergency fund to replace our tires. We found ourselves a ride to school this morning, but without our car, we will NOT be able to find another means of reliable transportation to and from our Monday to Thursday classes.

After receiving this letter, the CHC Foundation staff were happy to assist. They could do so because of the \$8,000 Inland Empire United Way (IEUW) grant they received this year that had monies allocated for emergency student funds. This is the next letter they received...

To Mrs. Audet and director Michelle Riggs, thank you very much for your assistance. I cannot thank you guys and everyone involved enough. My vehicle is now safe and roadworthy to get to school and an enormous weight has been lifted off my shoulders. I truly don't know how to convey how much I appreciate the funding that was provided and how much it helped. I no longer worry about my tires exploding on the highway which, was very stressful to me. Along with wonderful new tires, my vehicle registration has also been paid and I have a full tank of gas which has been rare for me lately. I never thought I would get as much help as you provided to me and I am extremely happy and grateful at the outcome. Your foundation has been very generous and helpful to the students of Crafton Hills College which I will heartily vouch to. If my volunteering or time is ever needed for any event I will gladly try my best to repay the foundation for what you have all done for me. Once again, thank you all very very much.

# This is Crafton.

### Ryan Bartlett--Crafton is home.

The family Ryan Bartlett has built at Crafton Hills College is what has the longtime English professor coming back for more. The smaller class sizes and welcoming environment on campus allows faculty, staff and students to establish meaningful relationships, he explains.

"I feel like I'm part of this big, extended family and that's what makes me feel good," said Bartlett, 37. "I get to know the students better and feel we have great programs, and the students don't feel like they're a face in the crowd. They feel like they're part of this community, too."

Bartlett, who is Crafton's current faculty co-chair for the English and reading department, arrived 14 years ago as a part time instructor before picking up a full-time gig.



His career in education began after graduating from Cal State San Bernardino with a bachelor's in literature before moving on to Mills College in Oakland where he earned his master's in creative writing.

It was while in Oakland he got his first start working with youth as part of the Boy Scouts of America's Learning for Life program, which teaches inner city children life skills, Bartlett said.

Soon, New York came calling. But when he learned he was going to be a father, Bartlett moved closer to family living in the Inland Empire– just miles

from where his father taught at Arrowhead Elementary School in San Bernardino and Cal State – and started his tenure at Crafton where he plans to stay for the long run.

Although writing may not be everyone's strong suit, Bartlett said he tries to instill a boost of confidence to every student who walks into his classroom.

"My task is to not only help them develop their skills but develop the confidence inside because there's so much untapped potential out there and so much they're bringing to campus that they don't yet realize," he continued. "

When not teaching or developing lesson plans, Bartlett spends time with his partner of almost five years and their blended family of children, ranging in ages from 12-23.

And while he may have a busy schedule balancing both school and homelife, Bartlett knows he must stay in the moment and remind himself of that when "looking at the big picture," he said. It's that lesson he, too, tries to instill in his students.

"I think that is the biggest piece of advice I can give" Bartlett said. "When you get into college people talk about their longtime goals, but they don't take the time to stay in the moment and look at this one particular moment in their life that's happening now. We have to be mindful of that."

# This is Crafton.

## Victoria Karalun--Honors Student is on a roll.

Victoria Karalun balances a lot every day as a mother, wife, business owner and a part-time Crafton Hills College student.

While it's not easy, Karalun is able to make her goals a reality with the support of her family, maintaining a list of priorities for the week and a whole lot of coffee.

Originally from England, Karalun moved to the U.S. after meeting her now-husband on the internet in 2002. The couple had a whirlwind courtship and within two months of meeting they were engaged. Karalun made the move a month later.

Although she had started college back home, Karalun put her higher education aspirations on the backburner and dedicated herself to her growing family, which includes a now 9-year-old son.

In-between it all, the 37-year-old began a photography business but always felt something was missing. "I saw something on the internet that said, 'Do something that scares you,' and I thought I should enroll in college," she said. "I needed something to



wake my brain up because my brain was stagnating. So, I enrolled in one class (at Crafton) and as soon as I started the class my brain lit up."

Karalun soon found her stride and was later asked to join CHC's honors program. She also discovered a long-lost passion for writing following the encouragement of Judy Cannon, coordinator of the College Honors Institute on campus, and is currently working on a book sharing her experiences as a birth photographer and gender issues.

She has taken her work on the road to speak at conferences in neighboring Redlands, Claremont and Irvine, as well as Las Vegas, Nevada, Portland, Ore., and Tempe, Ariz., and has no plans to slow down anytime soon.

"Ten years ago, I didn't think I would be doing this. So, I am seeing where it goes," Karalun said. "The big picture is – I have had so many struggles in my life and it's partly why it has taken me so long to get to this point in college. I immigrated. Had fertility problems. But the one thing I've done is maintain the hope that it is going to get better.

"I don't know exactly what I am going to be doing in the next year or the next year after that, but what I do know is I am going to keep working and keep doing better," she continued. "And because of that, I know my future will be good no matter what."



### Mark your calendar!

| Sat., March 30 | CHC Foundation Gala,<br>5 p.m. @ Crafton Hall  |
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| Sat., April 13 | Fire Academy Alumni<br>11th Annual Golf<br>Tournament, 10:30 a.m.<br>@ Tukwet Canyon |
| Sat., April 27 | Annual Women in Fire<br>Service Seminar, 9 a.m.<br>@ PSAH                            |
| Sun., April 28 | Herbivore Festival,<br>11 a.m 5 p.m.   |
| Fri., May 17   | Scholars Convocation<br>6 p.m. @ PAC   |
| Fri., May 24   | Grad Breakfast,<br>Commencement  |



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#### FREE ADMISSION & FREE PARKING

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