

MONTHLY REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 2019



“Kudos! Way to go! Great job!”



“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”
--Ralph Waldo Emerson,
American Philosopher

Crafton faculty lauded their stellar students at the annual Student Recognition Dinner on Friday, April 26. This special event, coordinated by Student Life, recognizes students who are hand-picked by one of their faculty or a counselor for doing excellent work in class or rising above an obstacle.

Thirty-six students were recognized this year in subjects ranging from art to sociology and from student services departments including EOPS, CALWorks, Guardian Scholars and the Transfer Center.

This event is sponsored in part by the CHC Foundation.

This is Crafton.

Christina Johle: Making children feel at home at college.

Christina Johle considers her classroom at Crafton Hills College like her home.

“And I think of it as my baby because I’ve been here from the ground up,” said the longtime Child Development Center teacher on a Tuesday morning as students began filling up the space, eager for a day of learning.

Ladybug décor hangs on the classroom walls, while the smells of essential oils waft through the air. It’s those little touches that the Yucaipa woman hopes sets a comfortable scene for all who walk through its doors.

Johle began her tenure with the center in 2002 after graduating from Crafton with an Associates degree in child development. And although the CDC has undergone its fair share of changes over the years, it’s Johle’s eagerness to teach a new generation of learners – and possibly future Roadrunners – that always has her coming back for more.



Johle’s path to education may not have been a straight one, but her passion for the career field began at a young age when she would read to her classmates in elementary school. She credits her kindergarten teacher – Mrs. Katz – for providing her the opportunity, calling the woman “wonderful.”

The 49-year-old considers herself to be a “child at heart,” which comes in handy when building a bond with her students. Another contributing factor – her eagerness to learn something new each day.

“I’m still kind of in awe of the things around me,” Johle explains. “I still get excited when I step outside and see a ladybug or something blooming. It’s those shared experiences that make this job more meaningful to me.”

To Johle, fostering a learning environment is more than just opening a lesson book – it’s creating a space for her students and their parents that keeps them wanting to come back for more. She does this by adding those little touches – the ladybugs and essential oils, to name a few – to the mix.

“I want my students to feel like when they are leaving their home, they’re coming to another one,” Johle said. “I’ve been doing this for so long, but my joy comes from seeing them learn, and my excitement of learning something new myself I would hope, too, excites them each time.

“I want everyone to always remember that they’re always learning, that there’s always something more to learn, and to keep their sense of wonder,” she said.

Analog and Digital Art Engages Students



The Crafton Hills College Art Gallery recently featured the work of a new faculty member, Prof. Iris Kern-Foster, who explores the ideas of belonging and space through abstract artwork.

“Somewhere” included both analog and digitally-created artwork, showing that traditional and new media formats can “happily coexist,” Kern-Foster says. There’s also a twist: one series of pieces has an additional layer that can be accessed through an augmented reality smartphone app.

The exhibit “relates to the human desire in creating mental images of people and situations and how we tend to place people into an imaginary surrounding, on a stage, a scenery — ‘somewhere,’” Kern-Foster says. “Since the characters in my artworks are mostly reduced to such an extent, the relationships between the different agents to each other and their surroundings tell the story.”

A professor of digital media, Kern-Foster began teaching at Crafton Hills College in the fall, and she is enjoying working with a diverse student body that is “so engaged” in the community.



APRIL HAPPENINGS

Clockwise from top left: Women in Fire Science outreach event, students admitted to UCR this fall, Safari Park field trip for STEM students, CHC veteran representatives conquer the Tough Mudder Run, students and employers at Etiquette Luncheon.



Mark your calendar!

Sat., May 11	100th Fire Academy Graduation, 10 a.m. @ PSAH
Thurs., May 16	Transfer Recognition Lunch, 1 p.m. @ Crafton Hall
Fri., May 17	VIP Donor Reception, 5 p.m. @ PAC Scholars Convocation, 6 p.m. @ PAC
Wed., May 22	EMT Graduation, 6 p.m. @ PAC
Fri., May 24	Grad Breakfast, 9:30 a.m. VIP Reception, 5 p.m. @ Roadrunner Cafe Commencement, 6 p.m. @ Quad
Tues., June 11	Radiologic Technology Graduation, 7 p.m. @ ARMC Oak Room