

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

June 2023

## Roadrunners Enjoy a 'Spot of Tea' with Deans of Crafton Hills College



Roadrunners on the Dean's List at Crafton Hills College enjoyed a special tea with the Deans event on April 24. The gathering included a catered lunch, activities like raffles and bingo, and a chance to connect with fellow students and administrators.

Making the Dean's List is a significant achievement (3.5 GPA with 12 or more units completed), and the event was held to recognize the students' efforts. Activities like this encourage students to continue their education, engagement, and growth. Martin Zamudio, a graphics design major, enjoyed the event and plans to stay involved on campus.

For more information on the Dean's List, visit [www.craftonhills.edu/deanslist](http://www.craftonhills.edu/deanslist).

*Photo: CHC Students, Faculty & Administrators.*

## CHC Student Sees California Government Up Close

Veselka Zelemenova, 20, who moved to the U.S. from Bulgaria as a child, is now interning with the Inland Empire office of California Governor Gavin Newsom, thanks to the Crafton Hills College Foundation.

Her work involves researching policy issues, drafting memos, and assisting with community outreach. She is passionate about advocating for a better quality of life for people and recently visited NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab to learn about their efforts in addressing climate change. "It

has directed me toward what I think is my passion, to advocate for a better quality of life for people," she said.

Zelemenova has also participated in a forum on student hunger and previously interned in Congressman Pete Aguilar's office. As a political science major at Crafton Hills College, she aspires to a career in policy making.

*Photo: Veselka Zelemenova attends NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.*







### Annual Honors Institute Luncheon Celebrates Its Graduates

Crafton Hills College held its annual Honors Institute Graduate Luncheon on May 5 to celebrate the accomplishments and bid farewell to graduating students.

The event, held in Crafton Hall, brought together Honors students who enjoyed laughter, expressions of appreciation, and special traditions. Graduation stoles were

presented, and program awards and scholarships were announced. The Honors Institute offers a multitude of opportunities with specific criteria for students to join. For more information, visit [www.craftonhills.edu/honors](http://www.craftonhills.edu/honors).

*Photo: 23/24 CHC Honors Institute Graduates.*



### Roadrunners' Cultural Diversity Celebrated at Special Event

Crafton Hills College's Multicultural Club organized the inaugural Multicultural Festival to celebrate the diverse backgrounds of the college community. The event, held in Crafton Hall on May 5, provided an opportunity for attendees to interact, learn fun facts, and enjoy food and drinks representing various cultures.

Representatives from the library and *The Sand Canyon Review*, Crafton's art and literary publication, were present. Attendees enjoyed interactive activities and an Asia-themed display, as well as live

music from local band, Faiva.

Angie Cristobal, the president of the Multicultural Club, expressed satisfaction with the event's success and its importance in bringing different cultures together at Crafton. "I think this event was super important for Crafton to have," she said. "I planned this event from the heart and was hoping for the best, and the best came of it."

*Photo: Multicultural Festival attendees.*



### Asian & Pacific Islander Heritage Month

CHC celebrated Asian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with an outdoor event on May 2. The event aimed to educate students, faculty, and staff about the culture, people, and food of Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

The event was a collaboration between Crafton and its sister college, San Bernardino Valley, and helps amplify part of the "fabric" that makes the U.S., explained Chloe de los

Reyes, an associate professor of English at the Yucaipa-based college and multilingual faculty lead. The event featured speeches, an open mic session, and a showcase of cultural attire. Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is celebrated annually. For more information, visit [www.asianpacificheritage.gov](http://www.asianpacificheritage.gov).

*Photo: API Association Members.*



### Faculty Tenure Celebration

Crafton Hills College proudly announced the tenure and promotion of ten esteemed faculty members to the position of Associate Professor in 2023.

This significant milestone in their careers reflects their dedication, expertise, and invaluable contributions to Crafton Hills College. Congratulations to: Lauren Bond,

Kristen Clements, Chloe De los Reyes, John Grounds, Ashley Hayes, Paul Jacques, Shirley Juan, Nicholas Reichert, Joshua Robles, and Isidro Zepeda.

*Photo: L to R: Lauren Bond, Kristen Clements, Nick Reichart, Paul Jacques, Shirley Juan, Ashley Hayes.*



### Crafton Students Present at Research Conference

Crafton Hills College hosted the Spring 2023 Student Research Conference on April 21. Students presented their quantitative and qualitative research.

Topics included 16th-century Aztec religion and the correlation between grade point average and social support. Students invested months in preparation, with some planning to present at future

conferences. Coordinator Judy Cannon highlighted the potential for these projects to serve as a foundation for future research and mentioned previous students who expanded their work at transfer universities.

*Photo: CHC Student, Ayla-Lynnette M. Smallwood displays her poster presentation: "The Effects of a Person's Best Friend."*



### Student Art Exhibit

Crafton Hills College hosted the Spring 2023 Student Art Exhibition reception on April 26.

Zachary Swing's 3-D design, resembling a dinosaur-like creature made with geometric shapes, was among the showcased pieces. Swing said the process took a lot of time and the exhibit serves as the "culmination

of all of our creations ... this semester."

The exhibited featured around 300 pieces in different mediums, including drawing, sculpture, painting, and 3-D design. The event was funded by the Crafton Hills College Foundation.

*Photo: CHC Art Students in Gallery.*



### Shakespeare Comes to Life at Crafton Hills College

Crafton Hills College staged William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" on April 29, with a 1920s twist, bringing a somewhat modern interpretation to the classic play – first performed in London in 1602. Director Paul Jacques and his talented cast performed the romantic comedy in the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center. "The arts are never supposed to hand you answers but kind of get you thinking, and so this is one of those [plays] that get you

thinking," Jacques said. "Twelfth Night" is Shakespeare's 19th play and tells the story of shipwrecked twins – Viola and Sebastian – who are unaware the other survived the incident. The romantic comedy takes both characters through twists and turns, but true love prevails for both Viola and Sebastian and their respective love interests.

*Photo: CHC Theatre Arts Students perform Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.*



### 108<sup>th</sup> Fire Academy Graduation

The 108th basic firefighter training academy graduation, held on May 19, recognized 25 cadets whose motto "one team, one dream" shined through. "You are the very best academy I've ever seen come through here," said Chief Mike Alder who followed up that statement by disclosing that he has never said that.

The graduation ceremony included bagpipes, a keynote address by cadet Joshua Rowell, certificate and award presentations,

a class plaque delivery, and a dismissal chant.

The highlight was a surprise Ha'akoa warrior dance by cadets to honor Alder, retiring after a 40-year fire service career and ten years as Chief of the CHC Fire Academy.

*Photo: Mike Alder, JuJuan Dotson & Ryan Harold.*





### Athletic Awards

Crafton Hills College held their first ever athletics award banquet on May 10. Coaches presented student athletes with conference placement awards, second year athlete acknowledgements, scholar athlete certificates, and plaques for the following team MVP and athlete of the year awards.

#### Cross Country

- Men’s Team MVP, Carlos Noriega
- Women’s Team MVP, Haley Kumanski

#### Water Polo

- Men’s Team MVP, Shane Randle

- Women’s Team MVP, Kathryn Wagner

#### Swimming

- Men’s team MVP Kyle Dennert
- Women’s Team MVP, Cristal Duran

#### Athletes of the Year

- Kathryn Wagner, Women’s Water Polo, and Swimming
- Kyle Dennert, Men’s Swimming

*Photo: CHC Student Athletes L to R: Shane Randle, Cristal Duran, Kathryn Wagner.*



### Veteran Graduation Recognition

Veteran students graduating this Spring were honored at a special recognition ceremony on May 16 hosted by the Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The ceremony included congratulatory messages from VRC Coordinator, Steven Rush, CHC President, Kevin Horan, and special guest & former VRC counselor, Lisa Mills. Fifteen students were honored at the event and each received a special graduation stole.

Additionally, each graduate received a challenge coin, a longstanding tradition that dates back to World War I, symbolizing unity and the bond of brotherhood and sisterhood among military personnel.

*Photo: CHC Veteran Students L to R: Jessica Oakley, Nicholas Burge, Dakota King, Holly Taione, Matthew Somboonpol, Eric Holloway and Aaron Schardein.*



### Let the Adventure Begin – EOP&S, CalWORKs, CARE, Guardian Scholars and Dreamers Grad Ceremony

For many college students, “it’s a jungle out there.” But for 60 Crafton Hills College, EOP&S, CalWORKs, CARE, Guardian Scholars and DREAMers, the adventure is just beginning.

Those 60 were the focus of a graduation and scholars celebration that took inspiration from the likes of Indiana Jones and The Jungle Book with its décor, dance finale and theme: “Let The Adventure Begin.”

“Graduates and scholars, you should be exceptionally proud of this moment. As many of you have stories and moments when you have wanted to quit or maybe did not believe you can make it, but here you are today – you’ve made it,” said Dr. LaTasha Hagler, Dream/associate dean of

student services, to kick off the event, held in the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center on May 12.

EOP&S/CARE/CalWORKs/Dream/NextUp are on-campus resources open to first generation, low-income, undocumented, foster youth and/or single parents in need of resources such as academic counseling, financial assistance, priority registration and textbooks and supplies. Students must apply via Crafton’s website and must meet program criteria.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.craftonhills.edu/eops](http://www.craftonhills.edu/eops).

*Photo: EOP&S/CARE/CalWORKs/Dream/NextUp Students.*