

CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S BOARD REPORT

June 2017



Dr. Wei Zhou

"Your Adventure Begins!"



Students transferring to four-year universities were treated to lunch on Thursday, May 18 as they celebrated their upcoming adventures in higher education. The annual luncheon is hosted by the University Transfer Center as a way to recognize and encourage our transfer students.

Derrick Rose: Activist, Researcher, Stellar Student, and 2017 President's Awardee

The Derrick Rose that is graduating from Crafton Hills College this semester is a very different person than the Derrick Rose who first walked onto campus two years ago.

"It was the summer after I graduated from high school, and I was kind of unsure of what I was doing," Rose, a Yucaipa resident, said. "My grades weren't very good in high school, and before I came onto campus, I was trying to hype myself up. I was so intimidated by how everyone looked like they were a sophisticated college student."

Rose started out taking the maximum number of credits, and he was encouraged when he realized that "maybe this school thing wasn't that bad." Soon, Rose noticed a change in how he tackled classes and homework. "My friends would want to go out, and I would stay home and study," he said. "You could say that I turned into a nerd. I had to start carving out the time to spend with my girlfriend. Once you can get your priorities straight, the school thing really isn't that hard."

One thing that Rose credits with his success was being part of the Left Lane program, which helped incoming freshman learn study skills; in exchange for attending tutoring sessions and rigorous meetings, students receive priority registration for classes. He also became president of the Black Student Union and joined student life, serving as treasurer for the Student Senate. Rose made new friends and enjoyed the experiences, but when his grades began to slip, he stepped back from extracurriculars, a move that boosted his GPA.

"I've gotten nothing but As since this year started," he said.

Rose also discovered that he enjoys talking to people about their beliefs, and would go around campus asking his fellow students questions from a survey he came up with.

"I'd ask them politically controversial questions, and I would enter their answers into my computer," he said. "The issues ranged from abortion to gun control to their position on assisted suicide, just to see what students thought."

After meeting Dr. T.L. Brink through the Honors Institute, the psychology instructor helped Rose turn his survey into a real study, and he was able to get every political science student on campus to participate. He created a presentation of his findings, and was selected to share it at the Honors Transfer Council of California Student Research Conference last month at UC Irvine, where he received the Exemplary Achievement Award.

"That was pretty cool," he said.

The accolades didn't stop there. Rose, who was on the dean's list, was honored with the President's Award, after being one of six students to receive a Medal of Distinction.



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Derrick Rose, continued

“When I found out I won, it felt surreal,” he said. “When I first came to Crafton, I was very overwhelmed, and honestly scared. I was wondering, do I even belong here? The president of the Black Student Union this year shared a quote, ‘Never feel that you don’t belong, because if you didn’t belong, you wouldn’t be here.’ That perfectly sums up how I felt. I was shocked and my parents were really excited to hear about it.”

Rose’s experience at Crafton was “awesome,” and in the fall, he will make new memories at UCLA, where he will study acting. Rose is leaving Crafton with associate’s degrees in communications and social science, and in 10 years, would like to be acting in movies.

As someone who was “never acknowledged for academics,” Rose is “extremely grateful” for the opportunities and awards he has received over the past two years. He also believes he would never have made it this far without his mom, dad, and God.

“It’s crazy how lucky I am,” he said. “I have the parents that I have, that are not only willing to help me, but have the means by which to help me through school. I am the descendent of a slave, and my grandma didn’t come from much, but worked hard and ended up being a nurse. My dad got his master’s in nursing and now does anesthesia, as does my mom. I would be doing my entire family a disservice if I didn’t make something of myself. This would not have been possible without my parents guiding and helping me, and they are just as responsible for my success.”

Edison Scholars Receive \$2,500 Scholarships



Ten students in the STEM fields received hefty scholarships at the Scholars Convocation on May 19. Edison International awarded the CHC Foundation \$25,000 for scholarships for students majoring in one of the STEM fields. Students were selected from scholarship applications and essays.

Edison Scholars (l-r): Rafael Machado (Math/Civil Engineering), Jeremy Quijano (Physics), Andrew Jalbert (Physics), Waleed Hasaniya (Engineering), Sheila Walsh (Microbiology), Christopher Garland (Bio-Engineering), Pargool Arab (Multiple Sciences, Physics & Math), Moises Garcia (Civil Engineering), and Samantha Blaylock (Math/Engineering). Not pictured: Vincent Camareno (Biology/Chemical Engineering)

EMT Graduation Salutes Graduates & Reese



A class of 87 students completed the Emergency Medical Technician certificate and graduated on Thursday, May 25. During the graduation, students and faculty took the opportunity to also congratulate program chair Gary Reese on his upcoming retirement.

Reese is retiring after 15 years with CHC.



Benefactor Susan Kean was on hand to meet and honor the recipient of the Charles J.C. Kean Memorial Scholarship.

Fire Academy #86



Crafton's Fire Academy #86 graduated on Tuesday, May 23—22 students from throughout the Inland Empire and North Hollywood. Representing weeks of focused work and physical training, the cadets are now eligible for Firefighter I Certification.

Out & About During April & May



Numerous events were held during the last months of the spring semester, including Tea with the Deans, Honors Luncheon, Retirement Celebration, and a student assistant appreciation lunch.

Commencement 2017



The weather was perfect for the 45th Annual Commencement on May 26, 2017. With 720 students eligible to graduate, and over 1,000 degrees and certificates awarded, it was a proud day for CHC. (All commencement photos can be found at craftonhills.edu.)
