

# PRESIDENT'S BOARD REPORT



*Dr. Wei Zhou*

January 2018

## Holiday Cheer for Faculty & Staff



Faculty & staff gathered on December 6 for the annual holiday party, providing a festive opportunity to gather for food and camaraderie.



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# Public Safety & Allied Health Graduations Highlight December

## 88th Paramedic Class



Fourteen students from throughout the Inland Empire completed the paramedic certificate and graduated on Friday, December 8 in the Performing Arts Center. Congratulations graduates!

## Fall 2017 EMT Class



Sixty-five students completed the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Certificate and graduated on Monday, December 11. The students completed an intensive 16-week certificate and can now perform basic life support in the pre-hospital setting. The certificate qualifies students to take the National Registry examinations necessary for state certification, of which about one-third of the students have done and passed.

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## 39th Respiratory Care Class



Thirty-one students in the Respiratory Care program graduated on Wednesday, December 13 after completing the 18-month associate degree program. The Crafton Hills Respiratory Care program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (COARC). Way to go, graduates!

## 87th Fire Academy



The 87th Fire Academy class graduated with 22 students on Friday, December 15. The class was led by Deandra Van Houten, only the second female to ever lead an academy in its 35 years history. (Read her story on pg. 5.) Congratulations to Van Houten and her fellow cadets.

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# John Gist Retires After 20 Years at CHC



In counseling, John Gist found his purpose.

As a young man, the Ohio native joined the Navy, and after serving 10 years and seeing the world, he decided to go to college, earning both his bachelor's and master's degrees. Gist was interested in counseling because "I'm a people person," he said. "You have to really like people to be a counselor."

His first counseling experience was at Chaffey College, and he loved it. From there, Gist worked at other community colleges in Southern California, knowing this was the job he was meant to do, and in 1998, he became senior counselor at Crafton Hills College. After nearly two decades at CHC, Gist retired on Dec. 22.

"It's been the most amazing job, to be able to help these students realize their dreams and find their way in this world," he said.

As a counselor, Gist has worked with students from all kinds of backgrounds, from young adults right out of high school to single moms returning to college. For some, community college gives them a second chance, Gist said, and it's "a lifeline that helps them connect to education and shows them what they need and provides support for the process."

"A lot of people have different issues when they come to college, and the support staff does an incredible job in terms of understanding what these students need, and pass that information to the counseling staff and we run with it," he added. "Counseling is all about relationships."

Students often follow up with Gist, letting him know what it's like at the four-year university they transferred to or the new job that they just started. "It feels good to know that you've made a difference," he said.

Gist will retire with fond memories of students and his colleagues, as well as a deep appreciation of Dean Kirsten Colvey and her leadership. He has been married for 32 years and has seven daughters, but he grew up an only child, and his co-workers have become family.

"I've met amazing people who have shown me love, support, and respect," he said. "They changed me."

In addition to being a counselor, Gist teaches at the University of La Verne, and he plans on spending his retirement volunteering at the VA hospital in Loma Linda and traveling around the United States. Wherever he goes, he'll be bringing with him pieces of wisdom he picked up at CHC.

"I'm taking away things I've learned from all the students and the other counselors," he said. "They touched my life."

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# Lone Female Cadet Leads Fire Academy to Graduation

Hard pressed to find anything difficult about the 15-week intensive Fire Academy at Crafton, Deandra Van Houten is clearly meant to be a leader. In fact, she was selected to lead the 87th Fire Academy class by her fellow cadets, all of who are fellows by the way. Van Houten is only the second female academy leader in the 35 year history of the program. The cadets graduated on Friday, December 15.

Van Houten credits her experience as a collegiate water polo player and high school coach for her leadership skills. “The experience playing for the University of Redlands and then coaching at Redlands East Valley (REV) High School undoubtedly played a role in my ability to lead the Fire Academy,” said Van Houten.

A native of Huntington Beach, Van Houten, 25, moved to Redlands to attend the University of Redlands and play water polo. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology/ anthropology and began working on a teaching credential while subbing at REV. She also coached the girl’s water polo team where a player’s mom approached her about becoming a firefighter. “Her family came from a long line of firefighters and she convinced me to explore it,” said Van Houten. “I attended an orientation session in Los Angeles that was led by a female Captain. I could just see myself in her shoes,” she said.

Van Houten started applying to various fire departments. Instead of waiting for a job offer, she decided to chuck her job and teaching credential and join the CHC Fire Academy. “It was a difficult decision, but the right one,” she said. “It was such a new experience but felt so natural. It’s like I’ve been preparing to be a firefighter without even knowing it. I’m just so comfortable this is the right career,” she said.

Her confidence and capability are clear to others. She was voted to be the academy leader after a two hour class interview with all the cadets. “Everyone has supported me,” said Van Houten. That was topped with a conditional job offer from San Diego from her earlier applications that would have required her to leave Crafton and start their academy in November. After some soul searching, she decided to finish the program at Crafton. “I wanted to complete what I had started at Crafton. I am so thankful to this college.”

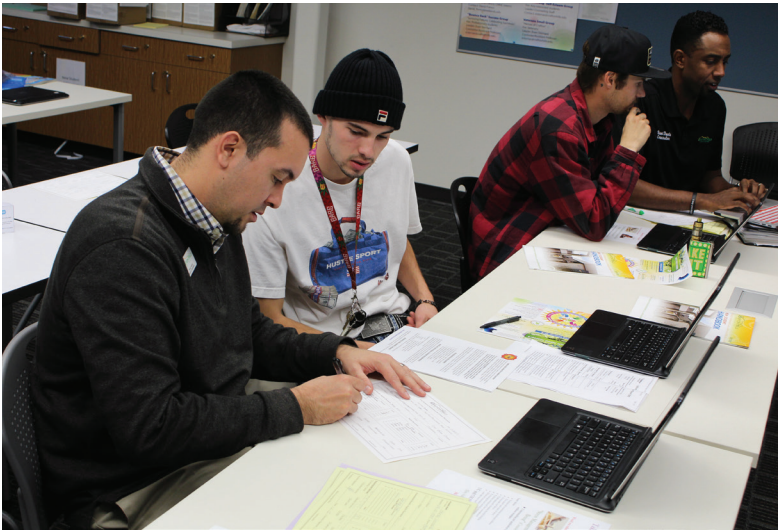
Citing the continuous learning that is part of this career, Van Houten likes the challenge of learning something new and the need to constantly improve. “In fact, now that I’ve had some time to reflect, I think the most difficult thing about the Academy is how detailed you have to be. It’s not just attending class, but also preparing for the next day. Your uniform has to be perfect, your supplies must be aligned properly at your seat, and you have to train physically. It takes a lot of time.”

Van Houten has an invitation to join the San Diego academy in March 2018. In the meantime, “I plan to relax and do nothing over the holidays.” It will be a well-deserved break for this trailblazer.



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# One-Stop Saturday Draws Students



CHC Counseling offered a one-stop assessment and advisement day on Saturday, January 6 to encourage students to register for spring semester. Student who had applied to Crafton but not yet taken the assessment test or seen a counselor, could do both at this

special Saturday session.

The convenience ended up being such a draw that another room had to be set up and a presentation added for the overflow. The students were contacted about the event via email and text.

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## Mark your calendar!

Fri., Jan. 12

Mon., Jan. 15

Tues., Jan. 16

Mon., Jan 22

InService Day, 8 a.m. @ Roadrunner Café

Campus Closed for Martin Luther King Day

First Day of Spring Semester

Fire Academy Alumni Gathering, 5 p.m. @ Brewcaipa (35058 Yucaipa Blvd.)

Fri., Feb. 2

*Meet, Greet & Eat* Honors Retreat, 10 a.m. @ CHL-100