



Photo: Child Development Center class children.

Read Across America

Student Services members Brandice Mello and Eva Bell teamed up with the Child Development Center and Library at Crafton Hills College to host a “Read Across America” celebration on March 2nd, which also celebrates the birthday of Dr. Seuss (aka Theodore Geisel).

Three excited classes of pre-school-aged children from the Child Development Center walked hand-in-hand to the Learning Resource Center on campus to listen to a story, sing a song, peruse books in the Children’s section of the library, and meet Ryker, the mascot.

Crafton Invests in African American Student Leadership

Crafton Hills College recently sent six students to the A2MEND African American Male Education Network and Development summit. The organization is dedicated to fostering “institutional change within the community college system” and is made up of African American male administrators from schools who are committed to investing in student leadership. Crafton provided the funding for the students Robbie Brown, Richard Kearns, Tyrone Ross, Michael Taylor, Jonathan Taylor, and Solange Morris to attend the conference in Los Angeles earlier this month. Students got the chance to network with other students



Photo: Crafton students and faculty at A2MEND conference.

Continued on page 2.

Crafton Invests in African American Student Leadership continued..

and staff and engage with several featured speakers. CHC Director of Student Life, Ericka Paddock commented that these students “are representative of the best we have to offer on our campus” adding that “we’re thrilled that we can continue to support their development as scholars and leaders.”

The six men attended a large college fair at the conference. Tyrone Ross, Student President and Communications Major who is set to transfer this year, was impressed with the caliber of the fair. It “was absolutely amazing” Ross said, going on to state “every UC, all the Cal States in SoCal, as well as the Historically Black Colleges of Howard, Hampton, and Morehouse were there.” Ross joked that he spoke to everyone and even helped other students examine their options. “It gave me a reassurance that I’m doing the right thing,” Ross said.

Fellow student, Richard Kearns, who plans to earn a doctorate in Psychology, agreed and commented that he realized “this is how it’s going to start” and attending this event “was like a shot in the arm” for his career as a scholar. Michael Taylor

agreed with Kearns when he said that it was a motivating experience to be around “800 positive black men,” and it reminded Taylor that students like him need to “explore their options” and continue to “be open-minded.”

Students engaged with the ideas and inspirational leadership of several featured speakers during the conference. Jonathan Taylor,

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a student of Computer Science student at Crafton who has set his sights on transferring to Cal State LA to study Cyber Security, said that this aspect of the conference was “life-changing.” Part of Taylor’s excitement with rubbing shoulders with *New York Times* best-selling author Ibram X. Kendi, whose new book *How to Be an Antiracist*, served as the basis for the entire conference. Kearns was also inspired by Kendi’s example, said that the “eye-opening” message he took from it was, “You’re gonna have people try and block you,” but that ultimately you can

overcome those obstacles if you’re determined enough. “I think we sell ourselves short,” Kearns said, but “we can do whatever we want to do.”

When asked what changes they’d like to see on the Crafton campus, the students were unanimous in their recognition of the need for something significant. “If we could bring something back,” Kearns said, “I think it’s got to be more than a club; it’s got to be something that can move mountains.” The students brought up the idea of starting a Umoja Program on campus.

The Umoja Program is a statewide program dedicated to fostering the success of African American students. Crafton’s sister school, Valley College, has such a program, but Crafton does not. Crafton Hills President Kevin Horan supported the students’ idea, saying that “these are the kind of spaces we want to create on campus” and that “we can absolutely support” a program like that. Ross agreed, stating, “we’re moving in the right direction”.



Teens for Jeans

Crafton student, Audrey Ortiz, saw an opportunity to help local teens in her community and enlisted the support of her fellow students to support the cause. After three weeks of collecting jeans at various locations on campus, the CHC students were able to donate 457 pairs of jeans for local youth in Yucaipa and Redlands as part of the nationwide effort, DoSomething: TEENS FOR JEANS campaign, sponsored by Aeropostale.



Photo: Sociology and Anthropology students.

Mission Trip

On March 7th, Sociology and Anthropology students from Professor Julie McKee's and Professor Cheryl DiBartolo's classes visited Mission San Juan Capistrano, thanks to funding from the Crafton Hills College Foundation. The group of students, faculty, friends, and family members took the Metrolink from Riverside to San Juan Capistrano for a full day of culture, new experiences, fun and learning.



Photo: Redlands Adult School Graduates.

Redlands Adult School

On February 27th, the Redlands Unified School District awarded certificates to students who completed Crafton Hills College Workforce Preparation program from at Redlands Adult School. The program is made up of four courses designed to help students develop academic, critical thinking, employability and soft skills to help them succeed in the workforce. Students who received these certificates are also concurrently working on their high school diploma, and some are ready to start college next semester. Representatives from Crafton Hills College, Redlands School District, Inland Empire Adult Education Consortium and Redlands Adult School were there to celebrate the accomplishment of these students.





Photo: Mariana Moreno, Transfer Center Coordinator

University of Redlands Recognizes Crafton Transfer Center Coordinator Mariana Moreno

Mariana Moreno, Transfer Center Coordinator at Crafton Hills College was recently given an award as part of the University of Redlands’ Arc of Purposeful Leadership Initiative. The award was announced during the University’s Inland Empire Partner Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, February 27th. Moreno’s award was given in recognition of exemplary performance in building and supporting her team of transfer specialists, which is big news for Crafton’s Transfer Center and represents a huge vote of confidence from one of the most important 4-year institutions in the region.

Over twenty large organizations and community colleges, including

schools much larger than Crafton were represented at the event, yet Moreno was selected to be one of seventeen individuals recognized by the Dean of the School of Business, Tom Horan. When asked what her reaction to the award was, Moreno responded with humility,

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“I was surprised at receiving this award. I am simply doing what I love”. She went on to praise the University of Redlands School of Business, saying that they “have an outstanding program,” and that she knows her “students are well taken care of when they go [there].”

Open-hearted and honest about her dedication to her job, Moreno said that she finds “seeing our students transfer and move forward with accomplishing their goals” as the most rewarding aspect of her work at Crafton. In terms of accomplishments, Moreno is proud that under her custodianship students can expect a “smooth transfer experience” at Crafton and that the Transfer Center is staffed with “dedicated, kind, and genuinely nice” people “who truly care about students and their experience.”

If the nod of recognition from the University of Redlands is anything to go by, Moreno is doing an excellent job and she certainly has no regrets. Having known from early on that she wanted “to pursue a career in helping others achieve their purpose,” Moreno says she decided to follow her passion and that she’s glad she did. As a first-generation student Moreno has firsthand experience of the challenges many students at Crafton face in pursuing a higher education. “I went straight from high school to the university and I was lost,” Moreno said. “I

was the first person in my entire immediate and extended family to go to college” and “there was no one to ask [for] help and when I did,

no one understood my needs or concerns.” Nevertheless, Moreno was driven to succeed in helping others to achieve their educational goals and by preparing them to transfer to the universities of their dreams.



Day of Advocacy

On March 12th, Professor Urbanovich's public speaking class participated in a Day of Advocacy. Students practiced their right to free speech, engaged in civil dialogue, and discussed issues that were important to them. Since 2008, Urbanovich has tasked students to present their

final assignment – a persuasive speech - in the quad at Crafton Hills College during the Days of Advocacy. Urbanovich acknowledges the fear of public speaking and has found this platform to be a better setting for students to passionately deliver their messages while classmates cheer and

music plays, creating a comfortable and energized environment. This semester's topics included, *Polygamy*, *Don't Panic Over Coronavirus*, and *Is Torture Acceptable When National Security is at Risk?*.



Club Rush and Health Fair

The Crafton Hills College Health and Wellness Center teamed up with the Department of Student Life and Inter-club Council to organize a Club Rush and Health Fair on March 11th in the campus quad. Students were encouraged to join a club to become more engaged in the campus community while learning networking,

leadership, communication and time management skills. Students who visited tables representing the 14 clubs on campus were entered into a raffle to win prizes. As a fundraiser, the Veteran's club grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and the Gamers Guild sold nachos. The Health and Wellness Center provided information on STD

prevention, mental health awareness, and blood pressure screenings. Students also had the opportunity to de-stress with pet therapy animals, and Life Stream was on hand for those who wanted to donate blood.



Photo: 7th Annual SoCal ASL Educators Conference.

ASL Conference

The 7th Annual SoCal ASL Educators Conference was held at Crafton Hills College on March 7th. This conference, organized by Breanna

Andrews and Davena Burns-Peters, allows colleagues to interact and share ideas to help attendees improve teaching techniques and connect

with each other. Eighty-nine American Sign Language educators from across Southern California participated in the day-long conference.



Photo: Community College Day Transfer Conference.

Transfer Conference

On Friday February 21st, 32 Crafton Hills College students attended the Community College Day Transfer Conference at University of California, Riverside. The event emphasized Chicano/Latino and Native American cultural awareness and empowerment. The Keynote address was given by Harvard graduate and UCR's Dean of the Graduate School of Education, Dr. Louie Rodriguez, who earned his degree from Valley College. His inspirational address was about the significance of an academic family and the need for students to truly live their dream by openly discussing it with everyone who surrounds them during every moment of every day. CHC students participated in workshops offered by all UCR colleges including the School of Medicine; the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; the Bourns College of Engineering; the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences; Graduate School of Education; and the School of Business. The day ended with laboratory tours of the Bourns College of Engineering and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.



College and Career Fair

Crafton Hills College participated at the Redlands Adult School College and Career Fair on March 11th. Student Services members from the Adult Education Program, Disabled Student Services (DSPS), EOPS/CalWORKs/CARE, Financial Aid, Summer Bridge, and Respiratory Care provided valuable information for future roadrunners. This event not only helped students at the adult school transition into college but also allowed

members of the community to share information, make connections, and ask questions.

Crafton Hills students from the first and second year of the Adult Ed Summer Bridge Program hosted an information booth where they shared their experiences as college students and referred future students to the different areas of student services that

were present at the event.

Students received information about the application process (online application, placement, and orientation), important deadlines and requirements for financial aid, and the FAFSA/CA Dream Act Application.



Photo: ROP High School Seniors.

WorkAbility

On February 28th, 35 high school seniors from the Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District ROP and WorkAbility Programs visited Crafton Hills College. The WorkAbility program helps students with disabilities transition from school to work, independent living, and postsecondary education or training.

The group received a campus tour and detailed information about the services and accommodations available to them through Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) office. All of the students in attendance have completed the application process at Crafton and will be able to register for summer or fall classes with Priority A registration once they register with the DSPS office.



Photo: Kevin Horan, Renée Azenaro, and Gerald Clark.

Gerald Clarke Reception

The reception and artist talk for Creative Sovereignty Works by Gerald Clarke was held on February 26th. Clark, an artist and member of the Cahuilla Band of Indians, is a full-time faculty member at UC Riverside. During the artist talk, Clarke discussed continuation of tradition through the lens of an artist in the 21st century. Clarke explained the political and personal nature of his art and reflected on how it is inspired by the stereotypes, racism, sexism, and continued struggles of Indian nations.

Clarke's work reveals what he believes to be his charge as an artist -- to convey the importance of social, political, tribal and familial responsibilities. As a working Cahuilla artist, Clarke noted that viewers at his exhibits often expect to see traditional Indian crafts in the form of turquoise jewelry, basketry, painted cow hides, etc; however, they regularly realize their own stereotypical expectations when they leave the exhibit with a new understanding of art made by contemporary Native American artists.



The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee presented by the Crafton Hills College Theatre Department was on stage in the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center March 6-8th. Directed by Paul Jacques and Assistant Director Andrew Hartel, the cast and crew put on a hilarious show. The quality production featured a talented group of students performing. This well-choreographed and entertaining

musical comedy engaged the audience as the six competitors in the Bee shared their personal journeys and struggles while attempting to avoid the dreaded "bell" indicating a spelling mistake. For the first time in many years, the show featured a live orchestra conducted by Musical Director Mark McConnell which enhanced the performance and gave the students an opportunity to perform with live music.



Fire Tech Club visits Child Development Center

On February 28th, the Crafton Hills College Fire Tech Club visited the Child Development Center to provide a *community helper* presentation.