



Photo: Crafton Theatre students Esther Udvardi and Henry Sigman.

## Crafton Theatre Art Students Bring Hilarious Broadway Hit to Inland Empire Audiences

Crafton Hills College Theatre Program students will present the Broadway hit, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* March 6th, 7th, and 8th on the college campus. This musical comedy, with music and lyrics written by the Tony Award winning William Finn and directed by the new Professor of Theatre Arts at Crafton, Paul Jacques, is guaranteed to have you in stitches. The show has been widely performed after its initial barnstorming success on Broadway—and Jacques who is also a resident director for the California Theatre—has added his own twist to certain numbers promising new fun “not seen in other productions before.”

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## Mike Orland Presentation

On Thursday, February 6th, Mike Orland, retired Captain for San Manuel Fire Department and CHC Fire Academy #34 graduate, presented a full-ride sponsorship for Academy #102 to Cadet Bryan Davidge.

Orland was diagnosed with stage four kidney cancer in 2019. Rather than focusing on his illness, he directed his attention to help others. Specifically, Orland committed himself to helping CHC Fire Academy cadets with what he calls a “jump start” into the fire service. This is his second Academy sponsorship with the inaugural gift having been presented in September 2019. He told the class of 29 cadets that providing this scholarship is selfish. Orland explained, “This is recharging me. This is helping me deal with my

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Photo: Cadet Bryan Davidge.



Photo: Crafton Theatre Students Jocelyn Perez, Caitlyn Tiszai, Isabella Spelman, Kevin Evans, Kobe Darby.

## Crafton Theatre Art Students Bring Hilarious Broadway Hit to In-land Empire Audiences continued..

Chosen for its engaging musical numbers and small scale cast, Putnam takes place entirely within the setting of a school gymnasium, where this innovative and hilarious musical follows the trials and tribulations of a group of six all-American pre-pubescent oddballs as they compete for first place in a middle-school spelling bee. “Everyone has that shared experience” of the spelling bee, director Jacques observed, confiding that “this is my first year here so we wanted to have something that was fun.” But the show also has a serious side to it. The show teaches “that individualism is important” and is ultimately about finding your own path in life, Jacques shared. Each character has “a self-discovery moment in the show,” he added, suggesting that this is an appropriate theme for the student actors who are themselves on a journey of self-discovery.

“It’s not the easiest musical to do,” Joclyn Perez—who plays the overachieving Marcy Parks—admitted.

And “the way the music is written” is particularly challenging, she added. But if that is the case, then it is clear that this educational journey, like the journey of the spellers themselves, has been one of growth. “It’s all about the educational journey” for the students, director Jacques asserted, clearly proud of the achievement they

**“The show teaches that individualism is important and is ultimately about finding your own path in life.”**

have accomplished in preparing this sophisticated contemporary musical. “We have a couple of students who are completely new to the department,” but Jacques was impressed with the calibre of their auditions and is excited about opening night. “I think you’re going to come and laugh and have a good time,” said Jacques, adding that the audience is going “to learn something, but that the learning is going to be couched in a lot of humor.”

There is one unusual aspect to the show. As Kobe Darby, who plays the character Leaf Coneybear, shared, there “is an improv element to the show.” And apparently, “at the beginning of the show four audience members are pulled up and they’re part of the spelling bee.” But don’t worry, if you’re one of those “four lucky people,” Jacques joked, “you get given the softballs.” I guess there’s only one way to find out if that’s true.

Tickets for *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* are on sale now at [www.craftonhills.edu/tickets](http://www.craftonhills.edu/tickets). General admission tickets are \$10. Discounted tickets are available for seniors and students for \$5. There will be three performances of this show; two in the evening and one in the afternoon. You can catch the 8 p.m. evening performances on the 6th and 7th of March or, if you prefer to see it while the sun’s still up, head over to campus at 2:00 p.m. on the 8th.

## Mike Orland Presentation continued..

cancer.” He encouraged the cadets to be “selfish,” explaining that as a firefighter, they will often receive more benefit from their feeling of gratitude than those who receive their help.

Orland also talked about the struggle he faced when trying to select just one cadet. He said of the six cadets who applied that “all of you are deserving in your own ways.” He selected Davidge as the recipient when he focused on the purpose of this scholarship. “This scholarship is predicated on

community service, on being a good person,” Orland remarked; “It is about what you’ve done to get here today and how you’ve lived your life.”

In addition, Orland presented Fire Chief Mike Alder with additional funds to be used for the Fire Academy Assistance Fund. Chief Alder established this fund with the CHC Foundation in February 2018. Many of the cadets are under great pressure financially to be able to stay in the program as the cost to cadets is between \$3,000-\$4,000 for

tuition, uniforms, equipment, books, and certifications. This Assistance Fund has allowed program faculty to help cadets struggling financially. In many cases, these funds have made the difference between a cadet continuing in the program or dropping out.

If you want to team with Orland and provide financial support for the CHC Fire Academy, please contact the CHC Foundation at 909-389-3245.



## Grant from San Manuel funds iSEEK program

The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians awarded Crafton Hills College a \$300,000 grant in support of the iSEEK program. iSEEK (Increasing Student Engagement and Knowledge Program) supports CHC students through student employment opportunities on-and-off campus, and direct student support through scholarships, emergency grants and textbook assistance.

More than 300 students have been supported by the program since its inception in July 2014. iSEEK began with a \$100,000 donation to support student employment and scholarships

and has gained the support of outside community partners such as the Yucaipa Valley Water District and the City of Calimesa.

This funding allows the CHC Foundation to help alleviate costs associated with higher education, increase student opportunities and engagement, and ultimately help students achieve their goals. It is the college’s hope that programs like iSEEK will help lower dropout rates while helping students gain work experience in their respective fields of study.

“It is through partnerships with community organizations like the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians that Crafton is a leading institution in the Inland Empire,” said CHC President Kevin Horan. The student employment part of the program is managed through the college Career Center while the direct student support will be available to students through the Foundation Office on campus. Students must apply for iSEEK scholarships and meet several criteria, including maintaining a high GPA and be actively engaged in on-campus groups and/or activities.



Photo: Hannah Sandy.

## Add Children's Author to the many talents and skills of Crafton's own Hannah Sandy

You may know her as Dr. Hannah Sandy, the Crafton Hills College Coordinator of Health and Wellness. Her latest venture is that of children's author with the publication of "Space Made Easy with Izzy: God's Wonderful Solar System" this past December.

"Space Made Easy with Izzy" provides a fun way to learn about the Solar System. It is a conversational story about a granddaughter who is curious about the heavenly bodies and her grandmother who explains the creation of the Solar System as a well thought out plan by a creator who desires to preserve human existence by providing a "Goldilocks" environment, planet Earth.

The story presents simple scientific facts while highlighting God's creative power. "Space Made Easy with Izzy" is geared towards beginning space enthusiasts or any mind curious about the heavenly bodies. "Space Made Easy with Izzy" by Hannah Priscilla Sandy is available through Amazon, in paperback and a Kindle version.

This children's book is truly a family affair and written with a child's perspective. Isabelle, aka "Izzy", is Dr. Sandy's 3-year-old granddaughter. "She is just

as fascinated with space objects as her grandma," shared Dr. Sandy. "When she was just a year old, Izzy would excitedly point towards the shining moon and stars. Her curiosity about the solar system continues to grow. She enjoys reading about the planets and her favorite is Jupiter."

Dr. Sandy was inspired to write "Space Made Easy with Izzy" through her desire to share her common bond with her granddaughter Isabelle and to answer some of the questions she had as a child, including "some I never thought to ask about space," said Dr. Sandy. "I enjoy reading good books and have been inspired by so many that I thought I should make a contribution to the fountain of knowledge."

Dr. Sandy has worked for the San Bernardino Community College District since 2010, as a nurse practitioner through 2014. She then became Interim Coordinator for the Crafton Hills Health and Wellness Center, and was named Coordinator in 2015. The Health & Wellness Center (HWC) provides CHC students with wellness, illness and injury care, and women's health care.

Originally from Sierra Leone in West Africa, Dr. Sandy is the oldest of

13 children. She grew up in a small community of fewer than 50 people. In a true "it takes a village" environment, where the adults took turns working in each other's farms and the children helped with chores of carrying water from the stream. Life was simple and unassuming. One delicious meal was guaranteed every evening. The kids ate leftovers in the morning. Everybody cared for everybody and no one went to bed hungry.

Dr. Sandy and her immediate family (husband and three children) migrated to the U.S. in 1996. She had a scholarship from the World Bank to study for a Master's Degree in Public Health at Loma Linda University. Due to civil war in Sierra Leone, the family was unable to return at the end of her program and was given protected status and eventually, all members became American citizens.

Sandy openly admits her love of education and attending school. "I walked over two miles to and from school each day from my small community in Sierra Leone and I did not miss a day except for being really ill. I loved knowledge (and still do) and school was the fountain that quenched that thirst for knowledge," said Sandy. "Education has carved paths in my life that I never thought possible. I have crossed oceans, conquered adversity and consider myself and family well placed in life, thanks to education and a strong hold on God!"

There is no doubt Dr. Sandy loves education. She has earned two Bachelor Degrees, two Master's Degrees, and a Doctorate.

Dr. Sandy lives in Beaumont with her husband Daniel Sandy. They have three adult children: Jewel Sandy, Joel Sandy, and Jenny Agyeman (Izzy's mom!).

Collaborating on a children's book was a natural progression of Dr. Sandy's love of education and her desire to give back and be of service to her community. Stay tuned for more books from Izzy and Grandma Hannah.



Photo: ASL 104 Class.

## ASL 104 Interpreter Simulation

Professor Breanna Andrews has challenged her American Sign Language 104 students to explore and understand the roles of interpreters for the Deaf community through a simulation activity. Throughout the month of March, students will take

turns portraying a Deaf/Hard of Hearing student or interpreter in each other's classes or by visiting offices across campus to request services. This activity will allow our faculty and staff the opportunity to practice their skills working with interpreters and

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students. In addition to these students spreading awareness, this is also a great opportunity to celebrate Deaf history month, which is observed March 13th -April 15th.



Photo: AJ Sparks and Mya Jackson.

## Crafton Hills College Swim is off to a great start!

The Crafton Hills College Men's and Women's swim teams competed at the 2020 Waterman Festival on February 7th at Palomar College. Mya Jackson and AJ Sparks won the individual Pentathlon event for the women's and men's competition. Jackson's time was 10 seconds ahead of her closest competitor! Gerald Griffan also won the 1000-yard freestyle at that meet. Jackson went on to set a new meet record for the Women's 50 free at the Mt. SAC Invitational on February 21st.



Photo: Students and faculty at fashion show.



Photo: Kashaunda Harris.

## Black History Month

Crafton Hills College celebrated Black History Month throughout February with poetry readings, jazz history, a student art show, a fashion show, food, music, and ceremonies.

At the opening ceremony, Kashaunda Harris stressed the importance of celebrating Black History Month to recognize “the accolades and accomplishments of black historians, educators, inventors, activists,

politicians, entertainers, and athletes and the impact they’ve made and continue to make.”

**“This month is about finding common spaces and differences.”**

Dan Word encouraged the campus to continue to keep the dialogue open

during Black History Month, imparting that these celebrations are important, “if it does nothing more than creating the space and opportunity for those conversations to happen.” Word continued, “this month is about finding common spaces and differences.”



Photo: Amy Minjares, Gio Sosa, and Michelle Riggs.

## Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards

Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Research and Planning Gio Sosa and Director of Institutional Advancement Michelle Riggs attended the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce Installation and Awards Banquet on January 30th. It was an excellent opportunity to visit with Foundation Director, Amy Minjares and support the community.



Photo: Gerald Clarke Exhibit "Democracy for Sale".



Photo: Gerald Clarke Exhibit Poster.

## Crafton Hills College Art Gallery Hosts Concurrent Exhibition with Palm Springs Art Museum of Contemporary Native American Artist Gerald Clarke

If you visit the intimate and brightly lit space of the Crafton Hills College Art Gallery in the coming months you might spot a rather incongruous looking gumball machine in the far corner of the room. This isn't a fixture of the college providing students and staff with something to chew on—or at least not in the literal sense—but is instead an intelligent and incisive commentary on the frustrations of contemporary politics. The machine, entitled "Democracy for Sale," dispenses real gumballs, each containing a shredded fragment of the American flag.

And like the other works on display at Crafton, this art object is a humorous and incisive take on its subject that is both accessible as art yet also a thoughtful expression of artist Gerald Clarke's personal and racial identity as a Native American Cahuilla Indian. But don't let that fool you and don't come expecting basket weaving. "I don't make Native American art," Clarke writes on his website. Instead, he expresses his "Cahuilla perspective as a 21st Century citizen

of the world." His ultimate goal as an artist? To communicate "the passion, pain, and reverence I feel as a contemporary Cahuilla person" while having "a meaningful interaction with the viewer."

Clarke "takes the traditional ideas of Native American art and updates them," Renée Azenaro, Professor of Fine Arts at Crafton says, and while

**"Clarke takes the traditional ideas of Native American art and updates them."**

he remains "very much a part of his community," Clarke's take is not what you might expect. So, instead of basket weaving, guests are greeted by a 10' day-glow yellow road sign with the word "Ne'at," or "basket" printed on it. The effect—Azenaro shared—is one of the disorientingly familiar; the form is recognizable, but the content and context is transformed, and must be experienced first-hand to be truly appreciated.

Remarkably, the CHC exhibition of Clarke's work is taking place concurrently with a mid-career retrospective of his work at Palm Springs Art Museum. This means that there is no better time to seize the opportunity and come engage with the thought-provoking work of this nationally recognized artist in the intimacy of a local space before perhaps visiting the larger exhibit in the desert.

A special feature of the exhibition at CHC will be a Reception and Artist Talk by Clarke on the 26th of February. This is an event not to be missed, according to Prof. Azenaro who explains that as an educator as well as an artist—he teaches at the University of California at Riverside— Clarke is "a great speaker" and "you will get a lot out of it," she confides. "He's very engaging; he's totally honest." Certainly, if the works on display at Crafton are anything to go by it will be an unforgettable experience for all visitors.



Photo: AAUW scholarship recipient.

## Jessica Lopez selected by AAUW for scholarship to Women’s Conference

The Redlands chapter of the American Association of University Women asked Crafton Hills faculty and staff to identify female students with strong leadership potential for the opportunity to apply for a full-ride scholarship to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders at the University of Maryland this May.

The conference empowers collegiate women to make meaningful impacts at their campus and mobilize their communities, and to prepare them for personal and professional success after graduation. The panel of volunteers selected Political Science major Jessica Lopez as the Crafton Hills College representative for the National Conference. The group was impressed with Lopez’s attitude on leadership and willingness to challenge herself. When asked what she believes makes a great leader, Lopez responded, “A leader is a person that is selfless, understanding, listens, stays true to themselves, and is willing to go the extra mile to watch others succeed.”

Lopez enjoys her time volunteering on the CHC student senate, where she is inspired to be the “voice” for students on campus. Specifically, she enjoys solving problems. “If any student were to have a concern, I would be able bring up the topic and help find a way to address it. This has given me an amazing opportunity to not only set an example but to form relationships and connect with people on campus,” Lopez explained.

This semester Lopez has stepped out of her comfort zone to be a stage manager for the theatre department at CHC. When offered this position by the head of the theatre department, Lopez admits, “I wasn’t too sure what I was getting myself into, but I thought, this can only help me.” Being a stage manager has required Lopez to ramp up her organizational and time-management skills as well as develop and improve her communications skills. Lopez added, “When working on a play production, it’s important to communicate with everyone involved, to help guide everyone towards success and work together as a team.”

## Upcoming Dates:

- Mar 12** Day of Advocacy #1  
Quad  
11 a.m.
- Mar 16** Spring Break  
-  
Classes Not in Session
- Mar 21**
- Mar 26** Grad Fair  
Crafton Center  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Mar 30** Deadline to Apply  
for Graduation

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