



## Crafton theatre students to perform ‘Helen of Troy’ origin story

The stage is set for live theatre to return to Crafton Hills College this October.

And to celebrate, theater students along with the department head Paul Jacques, will present the world premiere production of *Helen, Goddess of Arson*, by Baylee Schlichtman.

The play tells the story of Helen of Troy before given that moniker and was selected by Roadrunner theatre students last summer, said Jacques. And with theatres across the globe celebrating a new season of curtain raisings following the pandemic and with many eager to tell women-centric stories in popular media, Jacques said the production was a no-brainer.

The story begins around the time when Helen – then a princess of Sparta – became of age to be married. Helen tolerated her suitors, which included some of the most handsome warriors in Ancient Greece who compete for her hand. The story turns when Helen’s attention shifts at the arrival of Menelaus of Mycenae, a bumbling prince who harbors grievances. After he is chosen, their unlikely bond brings to light Helen’s quiet resentment toward her patriarchal world. When tragedy strikes, Helen must make a choice. Does she choose love, her autonomy, or something else?

“Helen is one of these figures that never gets a deep dive into the character,” explained Jacques. “And of all the plays we read, this was a delicious read.”

“Paul [Jacques] always mentions to us that



Photo: Theatre students at rehearsal for upcoming performance.

the show is so good because it tells a part of the story that is unknown,” said Grace McCray, a 21-year-old Crafton student who assumes the lead role. “Helen herself is a complex character.”

Along with McCray – a theatre arts and history major – rounding out the cast is Tara Quick as Helen’s sister, Leda; Sebastian Hernandez as Menelaus; and Jacob Brantmeyer, Enggie Ocampo and Joshua Tongpo as Chorus members 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Jacques directs.

The current Fall term has marked a bit of a return to normalcy at Crafton since the start of the pandemic, with some students returning to in-class learning and the planning of year-round events. *Helen* will mark the first time a production has been performed in the Crafton Performing Arts Center since Spring 2020, and there’s a sense of excitement in the air, said Jacques and McCray.

“There’s a lot of energy,” Jacques said. “The students are excited to be here and are getting back into rehearsal mode after being off stage for so long. Everyone is very, very focused.”

Added McCray, “It feels like I can breathe again, literally. I’m one of those actresses that’s neurotic when it comes to acting. It was really, really hard doing theatre on Zoom and our group got really, really small.

“Live theater is all about the audience,” McCray continued. “It is the life blood of theatre.”

Performances of *Helen* run at 8 pm Oct. 1 and 2, and 2 pm on Oct. 3. Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased online at [www.craftonhills.edu/tickets](http://www.craftonhills.edu/tickets) or at the Performing Arts Center Box Office the day of each show.



## Inland Empire University Transfer Fair Features Over 65 Universities

Community colleges across the Inland Empire worked together to coordinate a free virtual transfer fair for all community college students in Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

The event took place on Tuesday, September 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

with over 65 university representatives from institutions representing a variety of University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) locations, in-state private schools and out-of-state schools. Sessions began every half-hour throughout the event and participants were able to choose the sessions to attend.

Crafton's Transfer Center Coordinator, Mariana Macamay, who organized the event explained the benefits to students who begin their educational journeys at the community college: "Crafton offers students a great education in a beautiful setting with dedicated faculty and staff who want to see their students succeed and move forward with their educational goals."

By attending Crafton first and then transferring to a university, students can save money and will have priority for admission to the University of California and California State University public systems upon transfer. "With an Associate

Degree for Transfer (ADT), students now can benefit from guaranteed admission to UC's, CSU's, along with many independent, private, and out-of-state universities, including Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU's)."

The University Transfer Center at Crafton Hills College offers a variety of services and activities to help students transition smoothly from the community college to a four-year institution. "With over 100 workshops, assistance with completing applications, university application fee waivers, events such as the virtual transfer fair, in-person and virtual advising, it is no wonder that Crafton students have one of the highest admission rates in the Inland Empire to the University of California system. Come to Crafton, go anywhere!" Macamay proclaimed.



Photo: Summer Bridge Participants and their families.

## 2021 Adult Summer Bridge Celebration

The Redlands Adult School and Crafton Hills College EOPS Department partner each summer to provide a summer bridge program for local adult school graduates

who plan to begin community college in the fall.

On August 5, the group of graduates

gathered to celebrate their accomplishments.

The five-week program prepares adult education students over the summer for transfer to college in the fall semester and gives them tools they need to succeed. According to EOPS Director, Dr. Rejoice Chavira, "Participants receive the knowledge and skills to build a bridge to a successful college experience."

The cohort-based program cultivates relationships among these incoming students, who all have the same goal of starting their first year of college. "This experience fosters a sense of community while also building the confidence our students need to take on their first year of college," Chavira said.

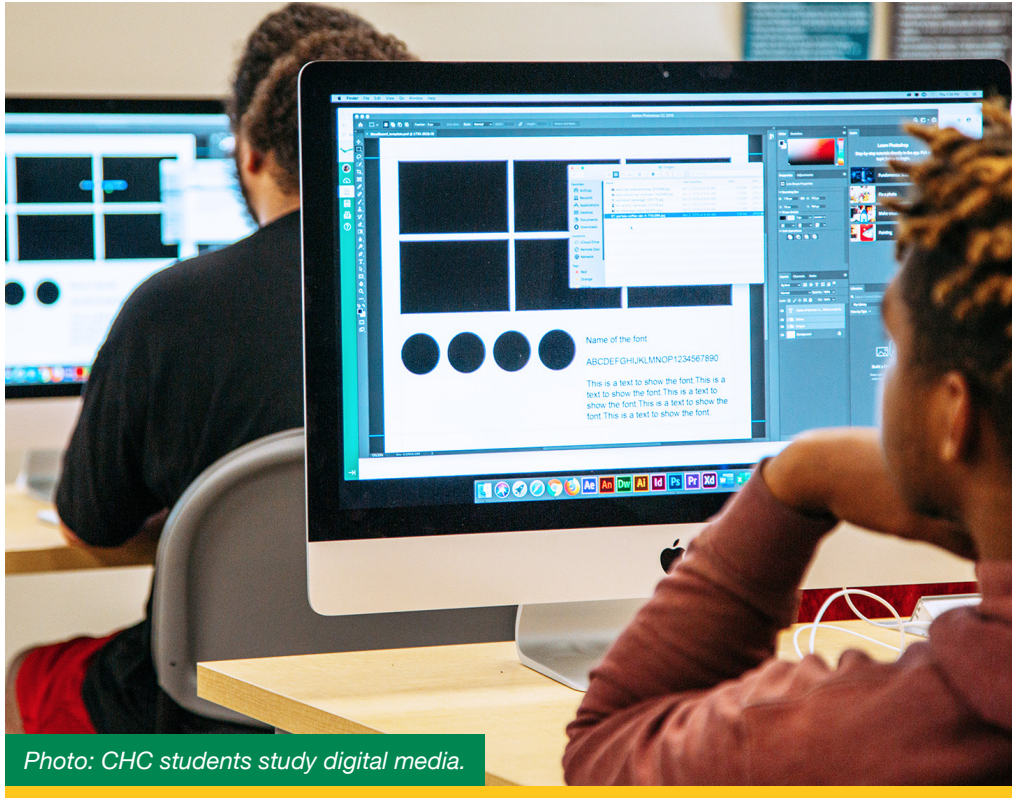


Photo: CHC students study digital media.

## Crafton Hills to offer new Digital Media courses in Virtual and Mixed Reality, Level II 3D Modeling

The COVID-19 pandemic may have slowed many industries or even brought them to a halt, but the demand for Multimedia, Graphic Design and Animation is greater than ever. Crafton Hills College (CHC) is ready to meet that need with exciting new classes this fall, including brand new courses in Virtual and Mixed Reality, and Level II 3D Modeling.

The new Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) course will give students an introduction to designing for these emerging technologies as well as experience with the industry's leading technologies, hardware, software, and the basics of development. Students will also get hands-on experience with current Augmented Reality (AR) and VR applications using leading VR headsets and learn about the Virtual Augmented Reality and MR development process using an industry standard game engine.

CHC's new 3D Modeling course will build

upon what students learned in the Level I course and will improve their skills in creating and animating characters and other objects used in 3D animations and games. The instructor who will be leading this class and the VR and MR class is the newly-hired Peter Gend, who comes to CHC with years of experience in animation, game design and visual effects.

According to Dr. Iris Kern-Foster, an assistant professor of Digital Media at CHC, CHC's curriculum is current

**“We strive to teach a way of innovative thinking, curiosity, and flexibility in addition to technical skills.”**

and prepares students to work in these emerging fields immediately after receiving their certificate or degree.

“The demand has increased in digital sculpting, game design, Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and User Experience (UX) design. Our challenge as educators is to attach meaning to

the related terms appearing in job announcements to our students,” she said. “Graduates entering the workforce, either employment or in entrepreneurial endeavors, are expected to embrace technological change and to see creative opportunities in challenges they face. We strive to teach a way of innovative thinking, curiosity, and flexibility in addition to technical skills.”

“We had a lot of new students who started during the pandemic - especially in the animation program - and I am very happy for them to have a campus experience in our labs and meet their classmates in person,” Kern-Foster said. “I am looking forward to welcoming our new students to the digital makerspace and the vibrant digital media culture at CHC.”

CHC Multimedia student Elizabeth Mulica said she would highly recommend the program to anyone interested in creating in the digital space.

“Being involved as a student in the Multimedia department has been and continues to be an amazing experience with wonderful and helpful professors,” Mulica said. “It’s really been a great opportunity to learn how to create digital pieces with industry standard programs, while having a great experience in the process to express yourself!”

CHC’s Multimedia program offers associate degrees and stackable certificates in Animation, Graphic and Media Design, Web Development and User Experience Design. New programs coming soon are certificates in Virtual Reality Design and Digital Illustration. Students can also earn an Associate in Science in Digital Animation, or Graphic and Media Design, or a Certificate in Graphic and Media Design.



Photo: Kevin Horan, Rosemarie Hansen, Rebecca Abeyta, Alex Jaco, and Delmy Spencer.

## Crafton’s Caring Campus Receives Recognition

Crafton Hills College’s classified staff recently received recognition from the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC) for their work in the Caring Campus initiative to “improve students’ sense of connectedness”. Caring Campus is based on decades of research documenting that student who feel connected to their college are more likely to complete and succeed in their courses, persist from semester to semester, and achieve their educational goals. Students come where they are welcome and stay where they feel cared about. The classified staff at Crafton have committed to connecting to our students and making a positive difference in their educational journey.

Directed by the Vice President of Student Services office, co-chairs Rosemarie Hansen and Rebecca Abeyta are leading the efforts. “Like many of our classified staff here at Crafton Hills College I was also a student and a student worker before there was an opening for a full-time position. My experience as a student at Crafton was amazing,” explained Hansen. “There were so many wonderful, classified staff, from lab techs, the cafeteria staff, the folks in the bookstore, and the staff in the

administrative areas that helped me along my journey. We already do an awesome job helping the students. Then when Caring Campus started, I saw that it would help us help each other, to make the student experience at CHC even better. What better way to honor those that helped me along my path than helping those after me on their extraordinary journey?”

Guided by a Caring Campus coach from

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the IEBC and with the support of senior leadership, the classified staff are strategic about implementing changes to increase connectedness to each other and to students.

“Caring Campus has given us a platform to engage more in depth about what we do as classified members in our respective departments,” said co-chair, Rebecca Abeyta. “This has allowed us to be better informed so we can continue to be able to help our students feel supported and connected not only through the wonderful services and resources we

offer at Crafton, but to find a connection through a positive experience in person or virtually.”

The Caring Campus Committee will continue to work closely with the IEBC in the 2021/2022 year. While all classified employees are encouraged to attend the monthly meetings, a few of the Caring Campus members who attend regularly and/or have presented updates from their departments include Ali Raventos, Claudia Hayton, Veronica Lehman, Steve Rush, Eva Bell, Jamie Sierra, Alexa Aslanian, Alex Jaco, Laura Van Genderen, Carrie Audet, Rebecca Orta and Brandi Mello.

The Caring Campus’ mission of student-connectedness has become even more relevant with the increased number of courses and services being offered online - and that connection is important in continuing to support student success.



## Great Efforts of Teamwork Pay Off

State-wide, scammers are posing as fake students to register for community college classes and apply for financial aid to fraudulently access COVID-19 relief grants and other forms of financial aid. Crafton Hills College remains committed to reducing fraud in admission and financial aid applications as fake 'bot students' attempt to take advantage of any vulnerability in the system.

According to Crafton's Financial Aid Director, John Muskavitch, the threat is real. Muskavitch explained, "If you are involved with community colleges in any way, you can't help but notice all the

fraud rings being set up throughout the State causing colleges to pay out millions to these scammers. Most of the money coming from the CARES Act [has been targeted by scammers], in fact so much nationwide, the Department of Education set up a special task force with the Office of Inspector General (OIG)."

Crafton, like many other colleges, was on alert and monitoring closely the schemes going on across California. Muskavitch informed his team that if their office received more than 30 student aid reports (SAR's), in a day to inform him. "Typically, this time of year CHC receives fewer than 30 on a daily basis," Muskavitch explained.

On September 9, Crafton received 143 SAR's, so Muskavitch knew they had been hit. Immediately, Muskavitch began notifying campus and district administration as well as the OIG.

Muskavitch worked closely with the OIG to submit records of the "Bogus Applications." On September 10, another 168 SAR's were received by the institution.

The financial aid staff discovered many similarities among the culprits. Muskavitch expanded, "All were independent, under \$30,000 in income, no telephone numbers, all used Outlook, Gmail, Yahoo email addresses. Home addresses were all in

Northern California from the first batch and many from Southern California in the second batch."

Muskavitch developed a plan, and then worked with the College President, the Director of Admissions & Records, and the District's Technology & Educational Support Services to avoid any financial loss.

"Within a couple of days and with all heads working together, we came up with our own 'bogus email' and as an institution we sent out verification worksheets to all the potential fraudsters," Muskavitch explained. He added that the bots were sent an email that asked them to fill out additional fake forms developed by the College that would separate any real students. This would be a second step to the application that would not be easily hacked.

And the plan worked. "To date, we have not received one form back," stated Muskavitch.

However, the threat persists, and the College remains committed to protecting real students and diligent in taking preventative measures to eliminate fraud. "It is a matter of time before they hit again, but as long as everyone in Financial Aid is alert and having the teamwork with the other departments, they may think twice before hitting Crafton and move on to the next college," Muskavitch concluded.



## CHC Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

Crafton employees and students celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month September 16 through October 15. Events and activities highlighted Hispanic culture and recognized the contributions of Hispanic Americans.

CHC faculty and staff discussed the critical role of stories and food recipes in helping preserve Hispanic culture, including languages, spiritual and religious customs, and histories. The celebrations began with an opening ceremony welcoming staff, faculty, and students and providing an overview of the planned events.

Always a favorite, the legendary Mexican Bingo game of Loteria provided fun, laughs, and prizes. The library hosted an in-preson hands-on Zine workshop (short for magazine) to teach attendees how to fold, collate, bind, and publish their own creations. Additional activities included a demonstration of the making of traditional popsicles, followed by a quick intro to sugar skull crafting intertwined with an open discussion of one of the most celebrated Hispanic traditions, rituals about the Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), at an open discussion including altars and processions.

Photo: Mexican Bingo game of Loteria cards.

# Art Faculty 21 Exhibition



Opens to the Public  
**Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>**

Closes Tuesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> 4:00PM

Artists

**Renée Azenaro**  
**Yuki Toyooka Smith**  
**Michael Bedoya**  
**Iris Kern-Foster**  
**Oliver Sutter**  
**Conchi Sanford**

**Gallery Hours**

Monday thru Thursday  
10:00am to 4:00pm



Photo: Professor Brandi Bailes.

## ASCCC Selects Brandi Bailes to Serve on Task Force and Nominates Her for BOG

Mathematics Professor and CHC Academic Senate President Brandi Bailes has been selected to serve on the newly established Data and Research Task Force (DRTF) for the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

The DRTF will work throughout the fall 2021 semester to establish data-driven processes to evaluate and advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. The team will then assist local academic senates in using data effectively to improve teaching and learning.

This task force has been established in response to the ASCCC Resolution F20 18.01, intended to leverage the Guided Pathways framework to include data exploration and ultimately improve educational programs and services to

students.

In addition, Bailes recently learned that she has been nominated by the ASCCC to serve on the California Community Colleges Board of Governors. Her application has been submitted to the Board's appointments secretary and Bailes is awaiting notification.

If selected, Bailes will work with other appointed members through a participatory governance process to set policy and provide guidance for the 73 districts and 116 colleges that constitute the California Community College system.

