



Crafton's 95th Paramedic Cohort Celebrates In-Person

Crafton Hills College's Paramedic Program Class #95 held an in-person graduation ceremony to celebrate the 17 graduates who persevered and finished the year-long program on August 20. Paramedic Program Director Amanda Ward was very pleased to be able to celebrate these students' accomplishments and stated that they "were overjoyed to have an in-person graduation."

The last two cohorts of paramedic graduates were unable to hold in-person graduation ceremonies due to the pandemic. This celebration included a song by the program's medical director, Dr. Phong Nguyen, and words of encouragement from College President Dr. Kevin Horan. Many of the graduates have already been hired by agencies including San Bernardino County Fire, American Medical Response, and Care



Photo: Paramedic Class #95.

Ambulance.

This graduation was only the third time these students were able to come together as a group in their entire time in the program. "They were so excited for one another and have cheered each other on every step of the way. Despite the physical distancing, they developed

a distinct sense of brotherhood and the friendships that we encourage and work to cultivate in this profession," Ward stated.

"These young men truly make me feel better in these uncertain times, though. Things will be OK as long as folks like them are in the world," Ward concluded.



Photo: Peter Gend.

Welcome New Employee: Peter Gend

Peter Gend has spent much of his life working in the three areas he loves- Education, Animation and Game Design. Peter had the good fortune of growing up during the rise of the video game industry and the inception of digital computer effects - spurring him on to one of the earliest degrees in computer animation offered in Southern California. Peter spent many years working on projects such as The Simpsons, The Fantastic Four, Sex and the City, The Nickelodeon Kid's Choice Awards, The Secret Life of Walter Mitty, Discovery Channel's Shark Week, and over 40 other feature films, TV shows, and video games. After teaching his first class in Game Design, Peter gained a love for higher education and has since obtained

his Master of Fine Arts in Animation and Visual Effects and has gone on to teach at nearly a dozen schools including The Rochester Institute of Technology, Cal State Los Angeles, Mt. San Antonio College, Columbia College Hollywood, and the Art Institutes. In higher education, Peter has held roles as Full Time Faculty, Adjunct Faculty, Department Chair, Program Coordinator, Academic Director, Associate Dean of the Arts, and Interim Dean of Academic Affairs. In addition to his work in Education and the Digital Arts, Peter is also an avid sculptor, rapid prototyping enthusiast, and devotes his time to the study and preservation of animation and video game history.



Photo: Amanda Ward.

Seasoned EMS Veteran Selected to Lead Paramedic Program

Crafton Hills College has one of the most respected emergency medical services programs in California. The program's newest paramedic director is a well-respected skills instructor for fellow first responders and a product of the Yucaipa-based college's program.

Crafton's new paramedic director, Amanda Ward, was destined to be a first responder. She is the daughter of a firefighter paramedic and a 911 dispatcher. She started her career as an emergency medical technician in 2002. In 2007, she went back to school, attending CHC for her paramedic certificate. She later

returned to Crafton as an emergency medical skills instructor in 2009 and has been teaching ever since.

"I believe in the quality of our program at CHC, and my goal is to help as many potential paramedics become the life-saving heroes our community needs," she said. "I am so excited for the challenges and opportunities that come with my new role at CHC."

Faculty and instructors in Crafton's emergency medical services are all former or currently working first responders, including Ward, who has nearly 14 years of experience working for American Medical Response in Redlands and Palm Springs and two years' experience as a flight paramedic for the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. She has also volunteered to serve on professional groups, including the EMS Educators Committee, EMS Officers, Medical Advisory Committee and System Advisory Committee, all of which are part of the Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA) and the San Bernardino Emergency Care Committee.

Upon completion of their courses, CHC graduates overwhelmingly pass their National Registry exams. For the last three years, 96 percent of Crafton graduates have passed their exams. Fall classes start August 16.

Students report that CHC's emergency medical services program is tops. Jovan Fierro, a recent graduate of the program, says that he was offered his "dream job" to work for Redlands Fire upon completing the program and passing his exam.

"My experience with the EMS program at Crafton was amazing. This program strives to make you successful and sets you up to become a great paramedic in the field," Fierro said. "They work hard on keeping a great learning environment, which helps students during a stressful year. I always felt there was someone to reach out to and ask questions at all times."

Fierro said he has heard from his colleagues and others in the field that CHC's program is well respected among first responders. Ward was one of his instructors while he studied at Crafton and said she is incredibly serious and passionate about teaching future paramedics.

"She was also that one instructor who everyone could talk to - she made herself available at all times for anything we needed."

"Based on conversations I've had with students of other programs, no other program has gone to this extent to make their students successful like Amanda and other instructors at CHC

do," he stated. "She was also that one instructor who everyone could talk to - she made herself available at all times for anything we needed."



Photo: Natalie Lopez.

Welcome New Employee: Natalie Lopez

Natalie Lopez began her Library career at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens. Her Library experiences include Rancho Mirage Public Library, Beaumont Library, Allan Hancock College and Palomar College. She pursued a master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. She enjoys teaching students how to do research in multiple disciplines,

cataloging books, Outreach and building Library collections. She is very excited about her new role as a Librarian at Crafton Hills College!



Photo: Giovanni Sosa.



Photo: Kashaunda Harris.



Photo: Rosemarie Hansen.

Classified Senate Awards CHC Professionals of the Year

Classified employees were provided the opportunity to nominate an administrator, classified staff, and faculty member to be recognized as Professionals of the Year.

There were 60 nominations received and all nominees were included on a ballot which resulted in two faculty and two administrators in a tie requiring an additional vote.

Congratulations to the 2020-2021 Professionals of the Year!

Administrator of the Year: Giovanni Sosa
Faculty of the Year: Kashaunda Harris
Classified of the Year: Rosemarie Hansen



Photo: Jeff Barraza, Diana Rodriguez, Gloria Harrison, Phong Nguyen.

CHC Foundation Welcomes Incoming Chancellor Rodriguez

On Saturday August 21, the Crafton Hills College Foundation Board hosted a champagne toast to celebrate the

appointment of Diana Z. Rodriguez as chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District. The informal

affair provided an opportunity for the 25 Foundation directors to welcome the new Chancellor.

College President Dr. Kevin Horan kicked off the evening with a toast to thank the Foundation directors for their contributions and support of Crafton students followed by comments of optimism and excitement on behalf of Crafton to welcome Chancellor Rodriguez. Rodriguez took a few moments to recognize the important role Foundation directors play in the success of students and highlighted some of their specific accomplishments over the past few years, including the virtual gala.

Those gathered were treated to an impromptu acapella performance by Foundation President Dr. Phong Nguyen of "Never Enough" from *The Greatest Showman*.



Photo: Dr. Ivan Peña .

Dr. Ivan Peña Joins CHC Student Services Team

Crafton Hills College welcomes a new Dean of Student Equity and Success, Dr. Ivan Peña. The former Dean of Student Equity and Success at Merced College was selected from a competitive pool of applicants following an exhaustive nationwide search. He began his position at Crafton effective July 19, 2021.

As the Dean of Student Equity and Success, he will provide leadership to all CHC counseling services, help support categorical programs and continue to lead the implementation of the College's

equity plan.

Dr. Peña has over eighteen years of experience working in higher education. For the past ten years he has served in administrative roles. He has worked at various higher education institutions including Merced College; Mt. San Antonio College; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; and California State University, Fullerton.

Dr. Peña has attended all three segments of California's public higher education system. Beginning at Mt. San Antonio College, Dr. Peña transferred to the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he received his bachelor's degree. He later went on to complete his master's degree from the California State University, Los Angeles, and in 2017 completed his doctorate at the University of California, Los Angeles. His passion lies in working with underserved communities to help them reach their educational goals.

As a first-generation college student and community college alumnus, Dr. Peña understands the positive impact education can have on students. He leads with a passion for equity, racial and social justice and has a deep commitment to making Crafton Hills College the college of choice for our local service area.

As the dean of student equity and success, he is excited to lead a team that can

provide our most underserved student populations with the opportunity to realize their educational and professional dreams.

"In my short time at Crafton Hills College, I have witnessed the passion and commitment of our faculty and staff, and their dedication toward student success. I am excited to join an educational community that has an excellent reputation for student centered approaches for learning across the Inland Empire."

In his free time, Ivan enjoys spending time with his wife Michelle, his two-year-old son Roque and four-month-old daughter Avelina. Ivan and his family are originally from Southern California and glad to be back home in the Inland Empire, where their extended family and support network also resides.

Delmy Spencer, vice president for student services, thanks the search committee for its hard work and commitment to finding an outstanding person for the new position.

"He cares profoundly about students and equity. We are excited to welcome him to the campus community."

"Dr. Peña is a caring, community-minded person who thinks strategically about his work," she said.

"He cares profoundly about students and equity. We are excited to welcome him to the campus community."



Photo: Ed Ferrari.

Welcome New Employee: Ed Ferrari

Ed is a former writing tutor and TEFL instructor who is starting his first semester as Assistant Professor of English at Crafton Hills. Originally from North Yorkshire in the UK, Ed met his wife, an Inland Empire native, in Poland. Shortly thereafter Ed moved to Redlands, where he lives with his wife and two young

daughters. Ed is a keen gardener and a poet.



Work Experience Course Helps Student Land Job

Michael Fileto always had a casual interest in computer science, although his goals were to join the allied health profession. But a course in bioinformatics and genomics helped him realize the opportunity for a career that combined biology and computer science. After receiving his bachelor's degree in biology at the University of California Riverside, Fileto enrolled in courses at Crafton Hills College to study computer science and computer information systems.

Crafton's Interim CIS Intern Coordinator

Ed Papp invited Fileto to take a web development work experience course. Fileto says this course was the first exposure he had using some technologies in computer science to create a website for a client.

With Papp's mentoring, Fileto was able to acquire business skills needed to establish client relationships while getting web development experience.

"Soon after that course concluded I asked Ed if he had any [class in] software development work experience for the upcoming summer term. He said he was open to [offering] it if we had a client to work with. I then decided to solicit for laboratories and biotech companies asking if they would be interested in participating in the work experience program," Fileto recalls.

Fileto received an agreement from a professor in the bioinformatics department at the University of Massachusetts Medical School that allowed him to collaborate with their ongoing software project.

"The work experience course has been very rewarding for me as I gained immense experience and knowledge in

data visualization/software development principles related to my career outcomes within the bioinformatics field," Fileto continued. "For this work experience, I needed to learn the Java language and use a version controlling software to create data visualization tools for the client's software application. Although I had translated my programming knowledge I had learned from my previous courses (C++), I still learned practical implementation methods in algorithms, classes, and functions to help integrate my ideas into this application."

Fileto credits his experiences at CHC for a recent job offer in a tech position within the bioinformatics industry. "I truly believe that the work experience greatly impacted my candidacy for this position, and I believe any student in this program would benefit greatly as much as I did for those who show desire and aptitude to do so," Fileto stated.

Fileto is now working full-time for a technology-based genetic testing company focused on transforming patient care in oncology, infectious and rare diseases, and reproductive health. He is also pursuing a master's in computer science.

"The work experience course has been very rewarding for me."

Renée Azenaro's Artwork Selected for Irvine Exhibit

Associate Professor of Fine Arts Renée Azenaro was selected to showcase her work at the annual All Media exhibition. Azenaro's 2021 piece "Festering" is a mixed-media painting on board measuring 48 inches x 48 inches.

This contemporary and cultural art exhibition showcases local and regional artists. The exhibition received 1300 entrants with only 57 artists selected by guest juror Taylor Bythewood-Porter, an assistant curator at the California African American Museum (CAAM).

Azenaro states, "This artwork is part of

an ongoing series in which I investigate and explore the conditions, divisions, physicality and healing of the world around us, manifested as a visceral and visual response."

The exhibition, designed to expand community awareness, understanding and sensitivity to art, and provide leisurely viewing enjoyment will be on display at the Irvine Fine Arts Center through September 18. Works include painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, printmaking, ceramics, video, installation, and more.



Photo: "Festering" at All Media exhibition.



Photo: CDC student.



Photo: CDC student.

CHC Child Development Center STEM Contest

The Child Development Center recently hosted a STEM innovation contest for their preschool students. Their creations ranged from a purse made out of sticks, to a bird feeder made from a soda bottle, and a Wonder Woman robot.

The Center provides a high quality developmental and educational preschool program for children ages three to five with full and part time options.

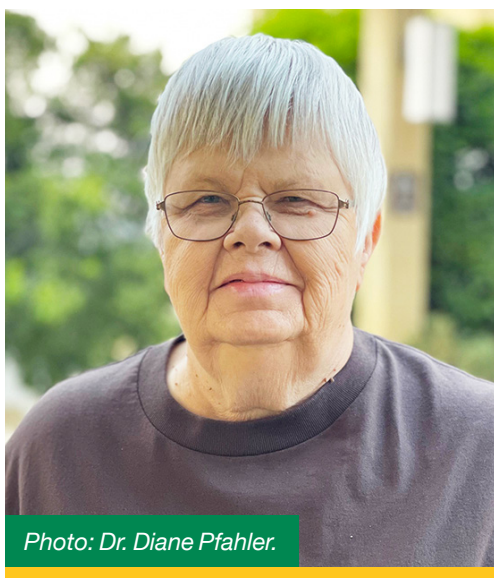


Photo: Dr. Diane Pfahler.

Dr. Diane Pfahler Recognized by Students at CSUSB

California State University San Bernardino's Transfer Student Success Center asked their students to nominate a faculty member who inspired them when they attended community college. Dr. Diane Pfahler, Professor of Psychology and Advisor for the Psychology and Research Clubs was nominated by a former CHC student and featured recently in that university's virtual celebration.

"I love teaching at the community college level," Pfahler declares. "It is usually their first exposure to college, and for many they are first in their families to attend

college. Helping them learn that they belong here and can do well is such a joy," said Pfahler.

Pfahler offered the following words of advice to her students about how to be successful at a community college. "Find a mentor and check in frequently! Use campus resources! Believe in yourself! Know that one test or one grade does not define you! Be the change you want to see in the world. And at the end of every class: Go forth and free the world. It's a big job. Get started early!"



Photo: Alex Beechko.

Welcome New Employee: Alex Beechko

Serving as Assistant Professor of Anatomy and Physiology and General Biology, Alex Beechko is enthusiastic about the anatomy of vertebrates and the biology of the world around him. Since 2015, he has been dedicated to improving science literacy amongst incoming college students through postings as a laboratory teaching assistant at CSU San Bernardino, as adjunct faculty at Crafton Hills College, and as a full time High School Anatomy and Biology teacher at Notre Dame High School in Riverside. Alex is motivated and inspired to increase the accessibility of scientific education through outreach programs with local four-year universities. He developed a passion for scientific

education and believes that he is in the best position to help as many students as possible succeed in pursuit of careers in the sciences.

Alex received his B.S. degree in biology with an emphasis in premedical education from CSU San Bernardino and received his M.S. degree in biology with a concentration in comparative muscle physiology from CSU San Bernardino. Alex is happily married to the love of his life, has two cats, and recently welcomed his first-born child into the world.



Photo: Enrollment workshop.

CHC Outreach Program Hosts Enrollment Workshops

Crafton Hills College student services team members Frances Southerland-Amsden and Alex Jaco provided a series of five in-person and online enrollment workshops for students missing one or more enrollment steps. They hosted these workshops the week before classes started. In total they served 112 students who all walked away registered for fall classes. Many students, like Joseline Manzano (pictured below with team member Frances Southerland-Amsden), shared that she recently graduated from Orange View High School and almost passed up the opportunity to enroll in classes.

team members and learned about some of the resources currently offered at Crafton such as free rental books through CHC's new Books+ program, Chromebooks that are available to check out from the library, and financial aid options. She also learned about the opportunity to attend an in-person workshop to help her complete her remaining steps and register for classes. Joseline felt compelled to give college another chance and decided to attend the enrollment workshop. Joseline is now enrolled in eight units. She feels like a huge weight has been lifted off her shoulders and plans to complete her degree in health sciences and transfer to Loma Linda University.

Joseline was contacted directly by support



Photo: Hannah Sandy.

Hannah Sandy to Serve as President of HSACC

Hannah Sandy, CHC's Health and Wellness Center coordinator, has been appointed as President of the Health Services Association for California Community Colleges for the 21-22 academic year.

through health and wellness. Hannah's thoughtful and patient leadership will undoubtedly move our association's goals forward."

The mission of HSACCC is to support and foster student access to quality health service programs within the California Community Colleges. Outgoing president Alex de Jounge stated, "the board looks forward to Hannah's leadership and support this next year. Again, we are faced with a challenging year serving students and supporting their academic success

Dean of student services Joe Cabrales shared the news with his department stating that Crafton is fortunate to have Hannah in this prestigious position. Sandy added, "I am honored to be in this role and trust in your continued support and empowerment of my professional growth. I promise to execute both roles to the best of my ability."



Photo: Yuki Toyooka Smith.

Welcome New Employee: Yuki Toyooka Smith

Yuki Toyooka Smith is an artist, writer, and educator. She grew up in Hokkaido, Japan, and has taught Anatomy Illustration and Figure Drawing at several colleges in Southern California. She has been published in multiple medical illustration books and her artwork has been part of the curriculum at University of Southern California and California Institute of Technology.

from SUNY New Paltz, and is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post Japan.

Yuki received an MFA from California State University Los Angeles, and a BFA

