



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Photo: Bill and Paula Ahlborn.

Dedication Ceremony Planned for William O. and Paula B. Ahlborn Courtyard

Crafton Hills College will recognize William (Bill) and Paula Ahlborn, two Yucaipa residents, at a Naming Ceremony on Saturday, April 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Bill Ahlborn is a proud alumnus of Crafton Hills College (CHC), an institution that, he said, has played an important role in his life for the past 40 years. In gracious recognition of his and wife Paula's contributions to the college, CHC will be dedicating a courtyard in their honor, and media is invited to attend the ceremony.

Bill's love of travel started with World War II when he was sent to Europe. There he received the Purple Heart for action in the Battle of the Bulge. Bill's first career was in journalism. Then he worked as a civilian employee for the U.S. Air Force overseas and at the Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino.

When Bill left the Air Force in the 1970s,

he decided to try a few CHC courses to keep him active during his retirement years. His experience there led to his teaching not only at CHC, but at California State University, Fullerton and Orange Coast College. After he stopped teaching in higher education, he continued to give lectures

“It is now Bill and Paula’s desire to create a legacy that supports CHC students in their educational journeys.”

and lead desert field trips. He also served as a guest lecturer with various cruise lines for ten years.

Bill said he gives CHC all the credit for inspiring him to share his knowledge and love for geography, geology, weather,

climate and deserts all around the world. Bill has now visited 150 countries, all 50 states, all seven continents and around 400 national parks.

Several years ago, Bill and Paula began to “pay it forward” by supporting students at CHC and joining the college foundation’s President’s Circle. Bill was named CHC’s Alumnus of the Year in 2020.

It is now Bill and Paula’s desire to create a legacy that supports CHC students in their educational journeys. In grateful recognition of their generosity, CHC, with the approval of the Board of the San Bernardino Community College District, will rename the Canyon Hall courtyard as the “William O. and Paula B. Ahlborn Courtyard.”

The Ahlborns’ investment will benefit students through annual scholarships and program enrichment experiences, such as field trips and sending students to academic conferences, in perpetuity. The contributions will be held with the CHC Foundation. Funds will be invested, and the interest earned will generate an annual distribution to support the earth sciences program and students.

Naming rights can be bestowed with gifts to the CHC Foundation. A new blended gift option is available for naming opportunities at Crafton Hills College. Blended gifts include an initial gift that establishes an endowed fund and is invested for growth, a long-term pledge of annual gifts to support the scholarships or programs, and an irrevocable bequest that once realized will fully fund a permanent endowment.

For more information on naming facilities, creating a scholarship, or including a legacy gift in your estate plan to benefit Crafton Hills College, contact Director of Institutional Advancement Michelle Riggs at 909-389-3391 or mriggs@craftonhills.edu.



Crafton Hills College to Celebrate 50 Year Anniversary and Honor Three Distinguished Alumni: Jim Topoleski, Ann Martgan, and Paul Barich.

Crafton Hills College is holding its 50th Anniversary Gala on Thursday, April 21, from 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

“The 50th anniversary is a fitting time for Crafton to renew connections with the communities we serve,” stated Michelle Riggs, Director of Institutional Advancement. “We are hoping to see alumni, employers, and other community members in attendance to celebrate this milestone with us!”

The casual event will be held at the campus Finkelstein Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$100 and sponsorships, starting at

\$300, include a custom ad in the souvenir program. A “Through the Years” skit will be performed by current theatre students to highlight fun facts and historical markers from each decade. A live auction will give attendees an opportunity to bid on items that include a private sailing excursion in San Diego and a behind-the-scenes gelato making experience.

Tickets can be purchased at www.craftonhills.edu/gala. All proceeds will benefit the College’s Foundation, which provides scholarships and emergency grants for students and financially supports transfer, STEM, and honor’s programs.

Recently, the Foundation has begun to pay license and testing fees for graduates from the Fire Academy, Paramedic, and Respiratory Therapy programs.

Through the years Crafton has provided education and training for childcare providers, first responders, allied healthcare workers, civic leaders, and other professionals vital to our community.

A highlight of the annual gala is the recognition of outstanding alumni. Jim Topoleski, Ann Martgan, and Paul Barich will be honored at this year’s event.



Jim Topoleski

Topoleski is a graduate of the Crafton Hills College Fire Academy, EMS, and Paramedic programs. He has an extensive fire service career of over 38 years, nearly 36 spent with the Redlands Fire Department.

Topoleski has held numerous ranks within Redlands Fire including firefighter/firefighter paramedic, engineer, captain, battalion chief and fire chief. He recently retired from Redlands Fire and is currently serving as division chief with San Bernardino County Fire Protection District, Wildland and

Aviation Division. Topoleski volunteers with Redlands AYSO, Redlands Youth Baseball, the Redlands Bowl, and Redlands Noon Rotary.

He continues to support the fire academy cadets at Crafton Hills College. Topoleski is truly dedicated to the fire service and the community and is truly an example of an Outstanding CHC Alumni.



Ann Martgan

Martgan is a shining example of leadership, professionalism, and mentorship, as she continually strives to aid the undeserved communities like the one she grew up in. Martgan never viewed the hardships she and her family faced as a barrier. Instead, she took the stereotypes placed upon her, such as being a young African American mother, and showed them to be a false narrative.

Martgan, who earned an EMT certificate and AA from CHC, has become a successful educator, published author, and

community servant. She currently serves as EMS Operations Manager for the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

Martgan continues to give back to Crafton and has even created an outreach day, partnering with the CTE departments, for the Girl Scouts of America. This event brings hundreds of young girls from underserved communities all over Southern California to Crafton every year to explore career paths in public safety and allied health fields where women are often under-represented.



Paul Barich

Redlands Mayor Paul Barich took classes at Crafton Hills College the first year the college opened its doors. He believes the time he spent here prepared him well for transfer to UCLA, where he earned a degree in history. He then returned to his hometown of Redlands to start a career in teaching before opening Barich and Associates Insurance Marketing Services Inc., which specializes in health, life, Medicare and 401(k)s.

Elected to the Redlands City Council in November 2014, Barich is currently

serving as the City's Mayor. Barich is an active member in his community, dedicating time to support the youth, businesses, and citizens of Redlands. He serves on several commissions, boards, committees, and community organizations.

He has donated his time to volunteer for Crafton Hills College, sponsoring and attending events and serving as the guest speaker at the 2017 "45th Anniversary" Friends Luncheon.

SPRING 2022

VIRTUAL TRANSFER FAIR

Hosted by
Inland Empire Community Colleges

April 6, 2022
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Inland Empire University Transfer Fair to Feature Over 60 Universities

California Community Colleges of the Inland Empire, including Crafton Hills College, will be hosting a free Virtual Transfer fair for all community college students in Riverside and San Bernardino counties on Wednesday, April 6th from 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. (PDT).

More than 60 institutions will share admissions information, including the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems and other in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities. There will be four sessions that students may choose to attend. University presentations will repeat every 45 minutes and representatives will answer questions

following their sessions.

"Over 90% of students who come to Crafton have a goal of transferring to a university," said Transfer Center Coordinator Mariana Macamay. "The transfer fair is a student's opportunity to meet with various universities such as UCLA, Cal State Fullerton, Cal Baptist University and out-of-state universities such as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical and Hawaii Pacific."

Students can register for this free event at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



Photo: CHC students pose for photo.

Club Rush

Crafton Hills College hosted its first in-person Club Rush of 2022 on March 16. Club Rush is hosted by the Associated

Students at Crafton every semester to promote campus clubs and encourage student participation.

Spring Club Rush had a 70s inspired "Spring Daze" theme, featuring club booths decorated with groovy swag and students dressed in their best hippy gear. Associated Student cardholders scored free CHC gear while grooving to the sounds of DJWALL-E.

Coachella Party Airstream, a Southern California festival favorite classic airstream trailer, provided a nostalgic photo backdrop. Viva La Boba and a food truck provided a variety of delectables for attendees to enjoy. Interactive booths represented various organizations: Student Senate, CHC Honors, CHC Tutoring, Psychology Club, Theatre Club, Multimedia Club, Multicultural Club, Physics Club, Basketball Club and the CHC Art Collective.

To learn more about clubs available at Crafton, or how to charter a club, visit www.craftonhills.edu/studentlife.



Photo: Ave Q cast on-stage opening night.

Avenue Q

The Crafton Hills College Theatre Program made its 2022 debut with three performances of Avenue Q on March 11, 12, and 13.

Avenue Q was the winner of the "Tony Triple Crown" for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. Opening night was a success, bringing local theatre lovers from all over

southern California to the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center.

Avenue Q tells the story of a recent college grad named Princeton, played by leading man Jackson Nagata, and Kate Monster, played by Tara Lynn Quick. Princeton moves into a shabby New York apartment building run by Gary Coleman, yes, that

Gary Coleman. The show resonated with everyone who has ever wondered what their purpose in life is.

The musical, directed by Paul Jacques, was unlike anything we've seen at Crafton Hills College. Hilarity ensued with cute foul-mouthed puppets, adult themes, and comedic songs with titles such as 'Everyone's a Little Bit Racist,' 'What do you do with a BA in English,' and -- the crowd's favorite -- "It Sucks to Be Me."

The audience erupted in laughter throughout the night and was left speechless multiple times. Crafton Hills College Theatre received recognition by the Yucaipa Rainbow Coalition for the play's LGBTQ+ themes and was praised by members of the Desert Rose Playhouse, an LGBTQ theater in Palm Springs.

Crafton Hills College will continue to bring events that encourage diversity, inclusivity, and individuality to its campus.



Photo: Joe Cabrales, Ernesto Rivera, and Robert McAtee are on hand to help students.

Gorgonio High, and San Andreas High. This was the first time since fall of 2019 that the college has hosted a group of high school students this large.

Students participated in workshops where they learned about the different Career and Academic Pathways (CAP's) available once they enroll at CHC. These were facilitated by counseling faculty who presented an overview of each CAP, and instructional faculty that highlighted their programs. Campus tours were facilitated by the Student Life Office to showcase the College's state-of-the-art facilities and sprawling campus. Students were also introduced to the various support programs on campus designed to help them succeed.

The campus was loud and lively with hundreds of students being dropped off by buses quickly filling the quad. Many attendees indicated that they had already applied for enrollment and were excited to identify their desired majors and career goals.

The day ended with dancing in the quad, Jersey Mike's subs for lunch, and a variety of TikTok videos shot by students and faculty with the campus as the backdrop.

Senior Day

On March 11, Crafton Hills College hosted Senior Day to showcase the beautiful campus, programs, and services to approximately 300 prospective high school students.

The day's activities kicked-off with a hype session from Ryker the Roadrunner, an introduction from Dr. Delmy Montenegro-

Spencer, Vice President of Student Services, and a warm welcome from Dean of Student Equity and Success Dr. Ivan Peña.

In attendance were students from 10 high schools: Yucaipa High, Oak View High, Green Valley High, Redlands East Valley High, Redlands High, Citrus Valley High, Orangewood High, The Grove School, San



Photo: Anissa Lopez.

Students Return to Campus Spring Semester

After six weeks of remote instruction, students returned on Feb 28 to the Crafton Hills College campus to resume the spring 2022 semester. Faculty and staff set up welcome booths all over campus to help direct students to their classrooms and provided them with fresh fruit, water, coffee and other items.

Students were happy to be back on campus and resume in-person instruction. Most expressed the same sentiments of wanting the full college experience, reconnecting with other students, making new friends, and interacting with others on campus.

CHC's Radiologic Technology program, shared that she is a visual learner who enjoys being on campus and having face-to-face conversations with her professors.

Although the spring semester was interrupted by Covid-19 restrictions, the College remains committed to providing the best education possible and cultivating a campus community for all its students, whether remotely or in-person.

Anissa Lopez, a student aspiring to enter



Photo: Jose Olmos.

Jose Olmos Nominated as Classified Employee of the Year for California Community Colleges

The Classified Employee of the Year Awards honor community college classified employees who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to the California Community Colleges' *Vision for Success* and equitable student outcomes.

Jose Olmos, Lead Maintenance Technician at Crafton Hills College, was nominated for this award by his colleagues and their nomination endorsed by the San Bernardino Community College District

Board of Trustees.

Olmos, who has served the College for 31 years, was selected for his commitment and care for all aspects of the college. He has developed an expert knowledge of building automation systems and equipment. No other service area employee impacts the daily, on-campus experience of every student and College employee as much as his. He works closely with faculty, staff, and management to meet optimal comfort

levels in campus buildings.

Olmos continues to make an impact beyond the boundaries of the campus by working with architects, engineers, and building automation consultants to improve designs and functionality of mechanical systems. Olmos doesn't wait for things to happen; he makes them happen by self-learning the intricacies of systems and teaching others what he's learned.

"We believe Jose is one of the best Lead Maintenance Technicians anywhere," stated Mike Strong, vice president of administrative services. "He is a collaborative, innovative, and a creative problem solver."

"Maintenance and operations employees are easily overlooked for their contributions to every student's success," Strong continued. "Even though he works quietly behind the scenes, Jose comes to work energetic and dedicated to keeping the campus comfortable, sustainable, maintained, and cost-efficient."

Olmos is being recognized for his commitment to creating a positive, and efficient learning environment for students and for his work ethic, institutional knowledge, and ability to solve problems. Winners of the Classified Employee of the Year Award will be announced on May 23, 2022, at the State Chancellor's Office Board of Governors meeting.



Photo: CHC hikers at the top of Zanja Peak.

Sunset Hike to Zanja Peak

On March 9, over twenty CHC students, faculty, staff, friends, and family members climbed Zanja Peak in Yucaipa. Three Peaks events are organized to challenge students and remind the campus community that students are more likely to succeed when they summit the three peaks: Engage, Learn and Advance.

This activity helped students engage with each other; forge new friendships, and begin to feel a sense of normalcy following a pandemic that has hindered face-to-

face interactions over the past two years. The 4.3-mile round-trip hike challenged students physically, and by the time the group made it down the trail, there was a sense of comradery with many of the students heading out for a bite to eat together.

The Three-Peaks committee is planning a Mt Baldy hike on May 7 with preparation meetings on April 21 and 22 and a pre-hike back to Zanja Peak on April 27.

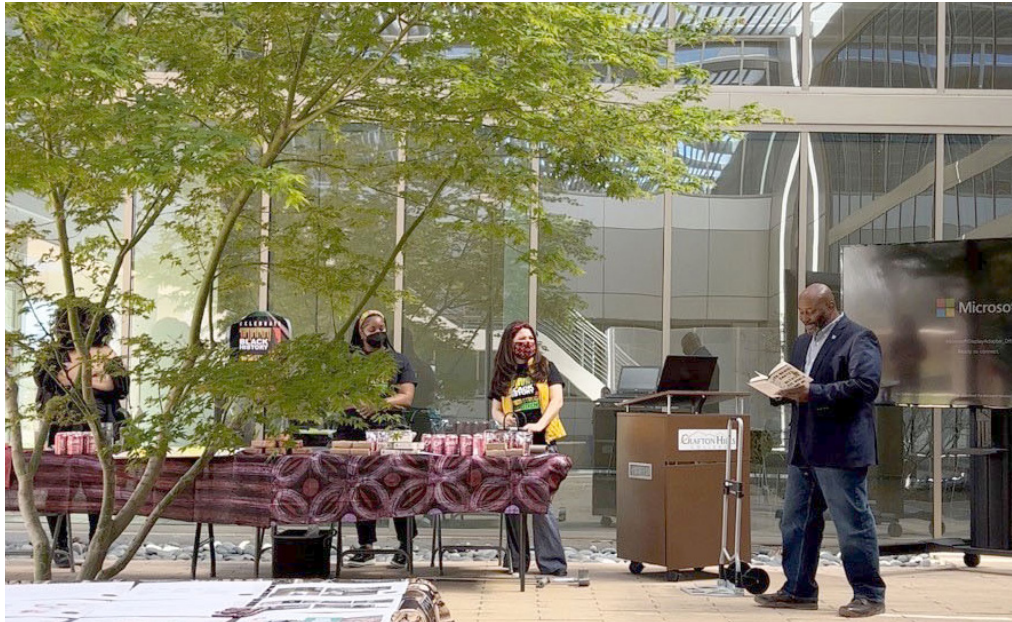


Photo: Dan Word addresses attendees.

After the ceremony, Crafton Hills College Health and Wellness Nurse Practitioner Gilbert Agyemang-Boakye shared pictures of his youth in Ghana and told stories of his upbringing as well as provided information on Black health and wellness and answered questions from students.

Grace McCray, theater arts student and lead of Crafton Theatre production *Helen: Goddess of Arson*, recited touching poetry, revealing a glimpse of her tremendous talent. CHC Dean of Career Education and Human Development Dan Word read an excerpt from Ta-Nehisi Coates book “Between the World and Me,” this year’s common book for the One Book, One College campus reading initiative.

Black History Month Recap

The Black History Month committee hosted an in-person Black History Month Recap event in the idyllic Crafton Center Patio on March 15.

Crafton Hills College EOPS Counselor Kashaunda Harris walked the group of alumni, students, faculty, and staff through a

traditional African Libations Ceremony. This ceremony is the ritual of pouring a liquid as an offering to a spirit, deity, or soul of a person who is deceased. Everyone was encouraged to speak the names of their deceased loved ones and ancestors to invite them into the space and welcome their blessings and protection.

Word invited students to enjoy cultural refreshments and desserts such as Pecan Pie, Sweet Potato Pie, and Buttermilk Pie. These three are called desperation pies because they are made using easily accessible ingredients. College President Dr. Kevin Horan thanked everyone for their efforts in making the campus Black History Month Celebrations a success.



Photo: Parents and future students at College night.

DSPS Parent and Student Transition to College Night

On March 16, the CHC Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) office hosted a parent-student transition to college night for prospective Crafton students.

Students currently participating in high school special education programs and their parents were invited to the campus to learn about disability laws that apply to college students, how to request academic accommodations, assistive technology, alternate media, and priority registration. The purpose of the event was to facilitate the student’s transition to Crafton, acquaint them with DSPS staff, and enhance their opportunity for academic success.

Outreach Coordinator Belinda Navarrette guided attendees on an optional campus

tour before the event. The 34 attendees were able to ask questions and meet staff who will be working with them to ensure their success at Crafton.

“These are the types of events that will help bridge our enrollment gap, but more importantly, ensure that our students and their families are informed about the variety of support services available to them,” stated Dr. Ivan Peña, Dean of Student Equity and Success.

To qualify for DSPS, you must be an enrolled student at CHC, have a verifiable disability that causes educational limitations, and have the ability to benefit from instruction. For more information about DSPS support available visit www.craftonhills.edu/DSPS.

Sociology Students Tour CHC Campus



Photo: Sociology class discovering campus.

Julie McKee, co-chair of Social Sciences and Sociology professor, invited students from her Sociology classes on a walking tour to learn the history of the campus and visit some of the fitness resources available.

Alumni and members of the faculty joined her students in the walk, listening to Professor McKee point out important and unknown landmarks around campus -- places like a pond that once served as a watering hole for the horses of students who were in the horsemanship courses and an area of wetland marsh plants with its own ecosystem on what used to be the school's golf course. McKee also pointed out a hill used as a ski slope for the skiing courses that were offered at Crafton in the 70s.

McKee took the group up to the fitness and aquatics center, where they were the first to

see the new outdoor obstacle course/gym on campus. The students learned about the multiple hiking trailheads, such as the Three Hawks Hiking Trail, the Crafton Hills Ridge Trail, and the Water Tower Access Trail.

The tour concluded with McKee taking the students on the fire access road below campus back to Crafton Hall. This road has beautiful views of the valley and was excellent for pointing out urban-rural delineation of geographical areas, something McKee teaches her students in class.

Attendees left feeling a deeper connection to the campus and expressed how much there is to learn about our beautiful campus beyond what they experience as they visit the campus to attend classes.



Photo: Crafton swim team.

Pruitt)

200-yard Freestyle: 3rd place Gerald Griffin

200-yard Butterfly: 1st place Kyle Dennert

50-yard Freestyle: Tied for 3rd place Blake Smith

100-yard Butterfly: 3rd place Gerald Griffin

200-yard Individual Medley: 3rd place Kyle Dennert

200-yard Freestyle Relay: 3rd place (Kyle Dennert, Peyton Pruitt, Blake Smith, Gerald Griffin)

Women's Events

50-yard Freestyle: Tied for 3rd place Cristal Duran

Congratulations to our student athletes!

Additional events and information about joining the CHC Athletics program, visit www.craftonhills.edu/athletics.

CHC Hosts PCAC Invitational Swim Meet

On March 4, Crafton Hills College hosted the first Pacific Coast Athletics Conference invitational of the season.

In overall team points, the Roadrunner men placed 4th and the women placed 5th. There were many outstanding

performances from all our Roadrunners. Among them, these races resulted in the following top three finishes:

Men's Events

200-yard Medley Relay: 3rd place (Blake Smith, Kyle Dennert, Gerald Griffin, Peyton