



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Photo: Class of 2022 CHC graduates.

Crafton Hills College's Largest Graduating Class Celebrated at In-person Ceremony in Campus Quad

Thousands gathered at Crafton Hills College (CHC) on Wednesday, May 25, for a special kind of celebration — three years in the making.

Graduates of the classes of 2020, 2021 and 2022 were invited to celebrate their respective graduations during a campus-wide commencement ceremony, the first in-person event of its kind following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Family friends and supporters all gathered on the campus quad to cheer for their respective grads with signs calling out their accomplishments and/or hooting and hollering as names were read.

"I can't begin to tell you how exciting it is to see all of your wonderful faces in person," exclaimed Crafton President Kevin Horan before taking a selfie with those in attendance from the commencement stage.

May was a busy time at Crafton as various grad-related events were held all-month long. But the May 25th ceremony was the

first time in years when campus leaders and staff were able to recognize every grad from the current and past two classes after in-person celebrations were put on pause as the world navigated through the ongoing health crisis.

Each of the presenters recognized the accomplishments of all the students who were able to persevere and complete their educational goals despite the additional hardships presented by COVID, new safety protocols and online learning.

"The last two years have defined what it takes to be persistent, and you encouraged all of us by showing up and doing the work," said Brandi Bailes, CHC Academic Senate president.

Brandice Mello, CHC's Classified Senate president, also supported the graduates by stating that, "Every day is a moment to be proud of. It is easy to highlight the times we want to give up and throw it all away..., but happiness is limitless."

In addition to the awarding of diplomas, other events included music by Plays Well With Others, the National Anthem sung by grad Lucy McIntosh, and remarks of encouragement from Student Commencement Speaker and graduating member of the Class of 2022, Victoria Karalun.

Graduation Day was years in the making for Karalun, a re-entry student and mother who has become a published author and presented her research at over 40 conferences during her time at CHC.

During her address, Karalun reflected on her path to and at Crafton and recalled a quote that changed her life — "Do one thing every day that scares you" — inspiring her to enroll at CHC in 2017.

"Much of our learning has taken place online," she said. "We've had no choice but to take a path that pushed us out of our comfort zone..., any one of us could have given up on our education. But being here today is proof we are here to work hard."

"We are the ones graduating in this crazy, unique time," Karalun continued. "Let us not take for granted how special it is that we are here together today."

The class of 2022 marked the largest graduating class in CHC's 50-year history, with 1,071 graduates earning 808 degrees and 853 certificates. The graduates included 34 military veterans and various age ranges, with the youngest grad only 18 and the oldest 70.

Of the 1,071 graduates, 317 earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher, including 63 students who graduated with a 4.0.

Graduation highlights can be found on CHC's social media channels, including its Facebook page at facebook.com/CraftonHillsCollege, and at craftonhills.edu.



Photo: Elijah Rodriguez.

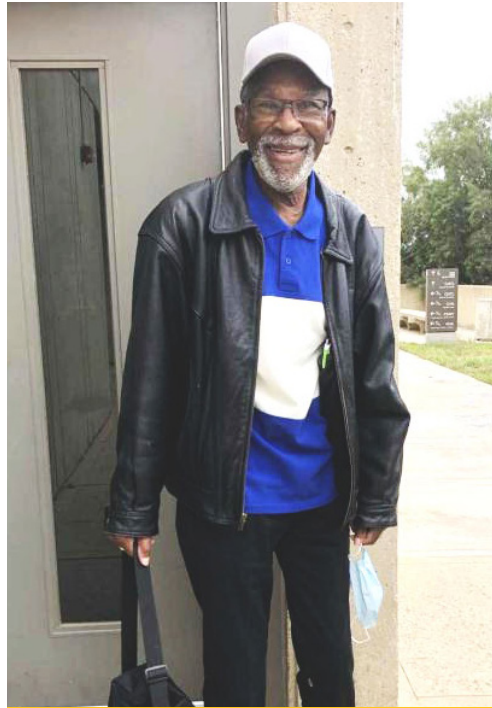


Photo: Clayton Carter.

department they were nominated for.

One of the recipients is Elijah Rodriguez - Department of Respiratory Care

"Outstanding clinical performance and outstanding classroom performance. Elijah applies himself and inquires with faculty to ensure understanding. He supports his classmates learning and always maintains a professional and positive attitude."

Clayton Carter was selected from the History Department.

"Mr. Clayton Carter was born in Oklahoma in 1943 and served honorably in the Army. He lives in Yucaipa and just started taking classes during the Spring 2022 semester. Having just met him, I admire his determination and desire to earn a degree. His attendance at Crafton Hills College shows me how our community comes together to help a student fulfill his lifelong dream. Keep pushing forward! Learning is for everyone, at any age. You are an inspiration!"

Visit the website to see the other honorees: <https://www.craftonhills.edu/features/students-of-the-year-2022/index.php>

2022 Students of the Year Recognized at CHC By Faculty and Staff

Each year, Crafton Hills College faculty and staff honor the best and brightest students from their respective departments.

These students come from all walks of life and stand out from their peers for a variety of reasons. Whether they have the

highest grade, the strongest work ethic, are the first to help others, or exhibit some other unique characteristic, the College is extremely proud of these individuals and their contributions to our campus community. Forty students are featured on the website with photos, quotes, and



CHC Pool Liner Upgrade

The Crafton Hills College Aquatics Center received some much-needed upgrades. Its Olympic-size pool was installed at Crafton in 2010 after being used in the 2004 Olympic trials held in Long Beach California, where Michael Phelps qualified for the American Olympic team.

The 50 meter by 25 yard pool has undergone regular maintenance, but for the first time is getting an all-new membrane liner and inner core skirt made from state-of-the-art PVC membrane. The new membrane will slow the growth of algae and bacteria as well as make cleaning easier and less expensive. With the PVC pool lining system, acid washing, or other

chemicals are not needed, and the new membrane provides better insulation that will decrease energy use.

Also included in the upgrades are freshly epoxy painted targets that will allow swimmers more accuracy while swimming as well as new grates and drains on the pool deck. These upgrades will help reduce material degradation and are guaranteed to last for 20 years. The pool is open to the community and is also used by the Yucaipa Swim Team for year-round competition and the Yucaipa Swim Club.



Photo: CHC Rad Tech Graduates.

'We're a big family' – Crafton, and Arrowhead Regional Medical Center Celebrate 2022 Class of Rad Tech Grads

After long lab hours and covering lots of material together, it is no surprise that Crafton Hills College's Class of 2022 Radiologic Technology Graduates were a tight-knit group.

From inside jokes to a photo montage of memories, the small class of seven were honored June 7, during a lively ceremony at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) in Colton.

"I was really surprised when my class chose me to make this speech," shared Jared Rayfield, a member of this year's graduates and student speaker. Regarding his classmates choosing him as the speaker, Rayfield joked that his selection just showed how much the others didn't want the "honor" of writing a speech.

As he tried to refrain from clichés or over-sentimentalizing during his brief speech – which drew a lot of laughs from those in attendance – Rayfield couldn't help but reflect on the tight bond the group created and its importance, as well as the strong support system that was built outside of the group with family and friends rooting them on.

"With 40-hour weeks studying and long hours away from home, it was apparent that time with family had to be sacrificed," he said. "And still, you all stood by and supported all of us."

Crafton's RadTech Program is a collaboration between the Yucaipa-based college and ARMC. The 22 ½-month program prepares future techs for positions in hospitals, all while they work closely with program leaders and lecturers. Along with meeting program criteria, all students must then become certified with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists and Radiological Health Selection of the California State Department of Health for entry-level employment in radiography.

Typically, the program accepts no more than eight students each term.

"Our program is very intense because the State of California requires 1,050 hours of clinical time, hence why we are here 40 hours a week. And that does not include study time," explained Melissa Huynh, program director for ARMC's school of radiology. "This program here became (the students') second home, and while we had to push back dates because of COVID, they

all rolled with the punches and were flexible. Give them a round of applause for rolling with uncertainty."

And the audience did, which drew smiles from all seven. As graduates were called individually to receive their pins and certificates, family and friends took out their cell phones to capture the moment. In addition to remarks from faculty, staff and program supporters, scholarship recipients were also announced.

Mia Manchego received the Clinical Award, which is awarded to a student who embodies hard work and the program's overall mission to prepare graduates who are competent and possess the professional ethics and practices associated with quality patient care. Aaliyah Mariscal earned the Academic Award, which was awarded to the student with the highest points achieved during the program, and Steve Rodriguez – a veteran – received the Cristi Hall award in memory of Hall, a former technologist at ARMC who exemplified excellence. Rodriguez also received a scholarship from the family of Michael Scott, a former Cristi Hall award recipient who was hired on at ARMC after graduating from the program in 2012. He loved the students and his ARMC family. Sadly, Michael passed away in 2019 and his family and friends established an endowed scholarship. This scholarship will be presented with the Cristi Hall award for each graduating class. This was the first year Michael's family was able to attend and present Michael's memorial scholarship.

"I look out here and see that 10 years ago Mike received the Cristi Hall Award, and we are very proud of what the students here have achieved and the career that you're going to have is going to be amazing," said Tom Scott, Michael's father. "Michael grew and flourished in this industry. His passion and willingness to help others achieve knowledge in radiology gave him great satisfaction."

Program applications are now open. To learn more or to apply, visit www.craftonhills.edu/academic-and-career-programs/divs-and-depts/career-ed-and-human-dev/allied-health-services/radiologic-technology/



Photo: Maria Valencia.

How Maria Cristina Valencia's Children Encouraged Her to Pursue a Higher Education

While trying to motivate her youngest to stay in school, Maria Cristina Valencia was thrown a curve ball when asked why she never got a high school diploma.

The year was 2014, and Valencia and her son Alder were arguing because he did not want to go to school. But after things settled down, the now 50-year-old said she had a realization: Alder was right.

"So, I enrolled at (Yucaipa) Adult School and got my high school diploma," explained the Yucaipa resident.

But she wasn't done yet. With encouragement from her family and the Yucaipa Adult School, Maria enrolled in her first class at Crafton in the summer of 2019 in pursuit of a higher education.

In May 2022 – with Alder by her side – Valencia graduated from Crafton Hills College with an associate degree in Spanish, and has plans to attend Cal State San Bernardino in the fall to focus on pursuing a bachelor's in early childhood development.

Valencia's major motivation: her children.

"It was a family goal," she continued. "(Alder) was the one who inspired me. He was the one who kicked my butt."

Valencia migrated to the United States

“Never give up because right now, there’s a lot of help out there. But if you don’t ask, you will never get that help.”

after leaving El Salvador during the Civil War. She worked while raising her two sons – now in their 20s – and added school to her already busy schedule to prove to herself that she “could do it.”

“Maria was one of my hardest working students,” said Marcia Stewart, a teacher at Yucaipa Adult School (YAS). “She completed her schoolwork every week, even as she was working two to three jobs, and has always inspired me and other

students with her great work ethic.”

“Maria is the embodiment of perseverance and determination,” Stewart continued. “She is an incredible woman, and I am so honored I got to witness part of her journey.”

Her children also took notice.

Alder also graduated in May with his AA in Business Administration, and plans on joining his mom on campus at CSUSB in the fall as well.

Valencia knows there's still a lot of work ahead and is up to the challenge, citing public speaking was one of her toughest courses to date and that there's potential on the horizon for similar challenging courses along the way.

“Before starting (public speaking), I was in a bit of a panic that I couldn't speak in front of someone because of my English,” she explained. “But everybody, every single person encouraged me not to be afraid - and to not be afraid of my accent.”

As far as the biggest piece of advice for students following in her footsteps, Valencia has one key word: Persist.

“Never give up because right now, there's a lot of help out there. But if you don't ask, you will never get that help,” she said. “I never thought I could graduate from Crafton, but otherwise, I would just be sitting down doing nothing.”

Each year, Crafton and YAS partner to help students pursue a higher education. This last semester, Roadrunner officials worked closely with 22 YAS adult learners by providing them with necessary resources to make their educational goals a reality. Eight YAS learners are currently enrolled in either Crafton's summer or fall semester credit courses, while two YAS students are participating in the site's Adult Summer Bridge Program, of which Valencia is an alumna of.

To learn more about the program or Crafton, go to craftonhills.edu



Photo: Jeff Cervantez, Michelle Riggs, Diana Rodriguez, Robert Alexander, Kevin Horan.

“Building our Communities Together” Joint Issues Dinner

On June 16, a Joint Issues Committee Dinner themed, “Building our Communities Together” was hosted by the Yucaipa Calimesa Joint Unified School District at the Yucaipa Performing Arts Center.

The Joint Issues Committee is a collaboration between the cities of Calimesa and Yucaipa, Yucaipa Valley Water District, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified School District, and Crafton Hills College. For over 30

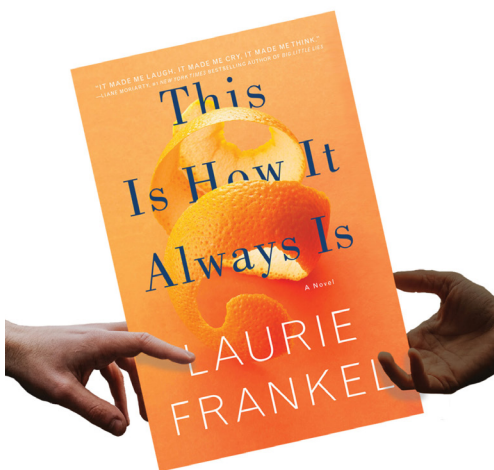
years, the group has been holding monthly meetings in rotating host locations to plan and discuss what the organizations can do together as they work to provide services and build a better community.

The monthly meetings allow staff and leadership from each of the entities to provide updates on upcoming events, projects, and most importantly the possibilities to positively impact the communities they serve. The dinner allowed representatives to share with elected officials who represent each organization the shared ideas, goals, concerns, and successes the group has worked to achieve.

Representatives from Crafton included SBCCD Chancellor Diana Rodriguez, SBCCD Student Trustee Robert Alexander, CHC President, Dr. Kevin Horan, Director of Institutional Advancement, Michelle Riggs, and Faculty Co-Chair of Social Sciences and Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Jeff Cervantez who also serves as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Calimesa.

Introducing the One Book One College Common Read for 2022-2023

One Book One College



CHC’s One Book One College Team selects *This is How it Always is* as the 22-23 book.

The group called for nominations using the following criteria in making the selection: Addresses issues of equity and inclusion, is relevant to the current CHC student population, inspires critical dialogue and an opportunity to test one’s own ideas, is interdisciplinary, has a message that can develop empathy, can build community amongst students and staff, and is accessible.

This is the College’s third year adopting a book which is incorporated into classes, activities, events, and trainings throughout the academic year.

as inspired by its author’s transgender child. The author, Laurie Frankel will visit Crafton in the spring to provide students and employees with the opportunity to learn more about her personal experiences and writing. Frankel will work directly with CHC’s composition and creative writing students and be featured at a President’s Circle VIP event.

Activities for employees and students will be organized throughout the year. They will be aimed at providing a safe space and opportunities for discussion, growth, and understanding of gender identity at Crafton Hills College.

This year’s book explores gender identity



Photo: Robert Alexander.

'I want to make a big difference': New SBCCD Student Trustee Sets Sight on Crafton's Future

Being elected as Crafton Hills College's Student Trustee to the San Bernardino Community College District Board of Trustees is a role Robert Alexander does not take lightly.

Elected to the post in May, the 43-year-old Moreno Valley man has a very positive outlook to the issues he wishes to tackle during his term, from getting more students involved in service on campus to addressing classroom size at Crafton.

"This is definitely a rewarding situation," said Alexander. "Obviously there is some kind of time commitment to (serving on the board), but a lot has to do with what you can put into it as well."

Alexander's term officially began on June 1, but prior to his start date, the multi-major was in full research mode collecting stats and figures to present to the Board on day one.

For example, Alexander wanted to speak to

trustees about the discrepancies in student registration limits imposed on classrooms at Crafton compared to its sister college, San Bernardino Valley College.

Currently, he explained, Valley limits its

A lot of the administration currently serving are years removed from college, so they enjoy and want to hear what is happening on campus from a student's point of view."

registration from 30 to 35 students per course, while Crafton's is set at 100. This, Alexander continues, leads to additional stress associated with student learning and classroom overcrowding.

"Our students are not able to get the

same interactions as others," he continued. "There's some concern with that because it is not fairly balanced and it's discouraging to our students. So, we are looking into that and how to resolve that."

Another issue – getting more students involved in serving on the Board of Trustees, including disabled students who might shy away from serving because they could lose some of their financial aid and other related benefits.

Alexander explains, "A student trustee is recognized almost like an employee, so it becomes a conflict with many students, especially those with disabilities. Some decline the compensation you get as a student trustee because of this, but at the same time, it can become a financial hardship for some students."

"We are trying to tackle some of that with the board currently," he continued. "For example, Riverside Community College offers a scholarship, but we are looking to find other ways to help."

In addition to his new role – one Alexander is familiar with having served in the same capacity when attending San Bernardino Valley College a decade ago – the former Army Veteran has a busy workload both on-and-off campus.

He currently works as a campus support aide for the Moreno Valley Unified School District and is taking courses for multiple associate degrees in political science, history and philosophy. He recently earned two other degrees from CHC in December of 2021 in sociology and anthropology. He also balances being a father, volunteering and aspires to run for public office in the future.

But right now, a lot of Alexander's focus is on serving the Roadrunner population.

"A lot of the administration currently serving are years removed from college, so they enjoy and want to hear what is happening on campus from a student's point of view," he said. "I want to make a big difference."



Photo: Classified employees at luncheon.

Workshops were held at each campus on Monday. Tech Tuesday centered around IT services and Wellness Wednesday focused on employee benefits and meditation practices. Thursday was the closeout with the Classified Luncheon at each campus.

At Crafton, offices were closed from noon to 2 p.m. to allow classified employees to attend. The CHC management team provided food, games, leis, and raffle prizes at the luau themed luncheon. "For us, it was the first time that all Classified had the opportunity to attend, which meant so much to us," stated Mello.

"The two biggest successes were classified feeling appreciated, especially considering the past two years, and Crafton and Valley collaborating to create this week," concluded Mello.

A special thank you to Rebecca Abeyta, Ana Bojorquez, John Feist, Tina Gimple, Ernest Guillen, Rania Hamdy, and Brandice Mello for planning the weeks activities.

2022 Classified Connections Week

Trainings and social events were held online and in-person at CHC and SBVC June 13-16 during the 2022 Classified Connections Week themed "Learning and Connecting Together:"

Classified Connections Week provides opportunities for professional development

tailored to classified members and serves to acknowledge their work. "This is the first time CHC has collaborated with SBVC to create this event," shared CHC Classified Senate President Brandice Mello. "This is the chance to honor classified employees and offer trainings as well as events that members have requested!"

CHC Hosts Regional Educators in Special Education Collaborative

On June 14, Student Accessibility Services (SAS) hosted an on-campus event for staff members from the East Valley Special Education Local Plan Area (EV SELPA) which is a consortium of local school districts that ensure quality education programs and services are available throughout the region to meet the needs of special education students. Member districts include Colton Joint Unified, Redlands Unified, Rialto Unified, Rim of the World Unified, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified, and the East Valley Operation Programs of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

EV SELPA serves as an important partner in referring graduating high school students who will be eligible for accessibility services at Crafton Hills College. Feedback from attendees indicated that they found the presentations informative, appreciated that the presenters were receptive to answer

questions, and as a result of attending they have a solid understanding of the support services available to students at CHC.

Most importantly, the attendees indicated that they felt they could strongly recommend that high school seniors attend CHC as the next step in their education. One attendee stated, "thank you so much for the outstanding presentations and tour of your beautiful campus. The knowledge gained will help me guide my Special Education students at the local high schools to Crafton."

The SAS team would like to thank Larry Aycok, Belinda Navarrete, Nati Rodriguez, Veronica Lehman, Ericka Paddock, Roger Mateo, Evan Sternard, Hannah Sandy, Jordan Montejano, Natalie Lopez, and Suzanne Delahanty for their participation in this event.



Photo: Attendees from EV SELPA.

SAS continues to work proactively to close enrollment gaps and this event will be a key to ensuring that prospective SAS students know about the support awaiting them at CHC.



Photo: Attendees at chamber mixer.

CHC Hosts Multi-Chamber Mixer in Celebration of their 50th Anniversary

On Tuesday June 14, CHC welcomed over 100 local business owners and community members at a multi-chamber mixer held in the College's Fire Academy Engine Bay.

CHC Foundation Director June Yamamoto

spearheaded the effort as an opportunity to bring the community to the campus in celebration of the College's 50th Anniversary.

The collaborative event was organized by

Yamamoto and volunteers representing the Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Colton, Highland, Mentone, San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Redlands, and Yucaipa Chambers of Commerce. Each chamber sent out special invitations to their board members, city council members and their local school board trustees.

College President, Dr. Kevin Horan provided guests with an overview of the College's recent accomplishments and plans for construction of a new performing arts center and regional training center. A certificate of recognition from the City of San Bernardino Mayor and City Council and a resolution from Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh on behalf of the California Senate 23rd District were presented.

Attendees gathered, mingled, exchanged cards, and won raffle baskets. Amanda Ward, Paramedic Program Director offered guests a tour of the Public Safety Allied Health Building first floor which serves as the training facility for the EMT, Paramedic, and Respiratory Therapy programs. A highlight of the tour was the simulated ambulance and the state-of-the-art simulation center.



Photo: Holly Griffiths, Southern California Edison STEM Scholarship Recipient

CHC Awards Scholarships to Help Students Continue

The Crafton Hills College Foundation provided \$180,151 in scholarship awards to financially assist 265 continuing, transferring, and graduating students.

The CHC scholarship program is funded through donations received by the Crafton Hills College Foundation from over 15 organizations and 100 individuals.

An online application available October 1 through February 28 prompted students to answer questions and submit an essay describing career goals, service to community and how the scholarship would help them continue their education. The CHC tutoring center offered workshops throughout the year to help students through the application process.

Thirty-four employees, retirees, and members of the community volunteered

to read through each of the applications to review and determine the student who best meets the criteria for each of the various opportunities.

Students were notified in May and funding will be sent to students over the summer, so they are ready to register for the fall semester.

Many of the students who were selected for these awards are showcased on the CHC Foundation Scholarships 2022 webpage. These students have diverse and compelling stories. You are invited to read their quotes and bios. These students are inspirational and speak to what is best about Crafton Hills College.

For more information on our scholarship program, visit www.craftonhills.edu/foundation.



Photo: Theatre students.

CHC Kicks off Summer Theatre New Works Festival

The Crafton Hills College Theatre Department is bringing the heat this summer with its 3rd annual New Works Festival. The department invited playwrights from around the world to submit 10-minute and one-act plays to be performed over a 7-week period. This year's theme is "Messages and Memories," stories about dreams, passing along collective memories and experiences, as well as associated topics.

Attendees can participate online via Zoom or in person in an intimate black box

theatre set in the Performing Arts Center, designed specifically for the festival.

The student ensemble is responsible for the entire production: casting, performing, set design, costuming, stage lighting, and audio. Students will even direct entries -- under the supervision of theatre department head Paul Jacques.

The festival is unique as playwrights are invited to participate in a talkback session on the evenings when their play is performed. Three of the playwrights

chosen for opening night attended via Zoom. Bill Brohaugh and Lisa Holt, writers of "Hope Springs A Turtle" and Arianna Rose, writer of the "Do Over," participated in the post-show talkback via Zoom. The students and audience wasted no time in asking the playwrights questions, and the playwrights asked questions in return, creating a shared moment of feedback as well as admiration. Arianna Rose ("Do Over") shared that this was the first time her play was ever performed. The festival is an exciting experience for the students, playwrights, and attendees alike.

CHC Express Enrollment Event July 27

Crafton Hills College is holding a virtual Roadrunner Express Enrollment event on July 27. Every aspect of the enrollment process is combined into a single, easy-to-follow session for students to complete online, so students are ready to start classes when the fall semester begins on August 15.

This virtual event is intended to help students who plan to attend CHC classes in the fall: new, continuing, returning, dual enrolled, and even concurrently enrolled

university students. When students register during Express Enrollment, they will receive access to free textbook rentals and loaner Chromebooks.

Sign up to participate at www.craftonhills.edu/expresenrollment. Let's Go!

