

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

LET'S GO! ¡ADELANTE!

October 2023

Crafton Hills College Welcomes Back Paramedic Program Alumni with Special Reunion



Crafton Hills College's paramedic program has trained some of the best in the field since its inception in the 1970s. And to mark the program's 100th graduating class, Yucaipa's little college on the hill welcomed paramedic alumni back to campus with a lively reception in the Crafton Center on Friday, August 25.

During the hour-long reunion, dozens shook hands, hugged, chatted about their lives since graduating and shared trade secrets and offered bits of advice to soon-to-be-grads.

"It's crazy to see who has come before us and went through what we went through and how times have changed," said Tucker Johnson, a 22-year-old Hemet resident and 100th class speaker. He added how much he appreciated hearing their stories and

getting their advice.

And there was no better person to get advice from than Steve Nunn, a member of the program's first graduating class, who said returning to campus was a "time warp." As Johnson and Nunn interacted, Johnson's face lit up as he soaked in an extended handshake and listened intently as Nunn spoke.

"It's a real trip to ... be a part of this," shared Nunn. "When we first started the class [in 1977] we did not have a guarantee that we would be certified because of all the political problems and the paperwork, etcetera. So, we went through all the didactic phase and the clinical phase, not knowing whether we would have a license at the end of the deal."

But they did, and Nunn went on to have a successful career. Yet, he never forgot his Crafton roots and would later return to campus as a paramedic instructor and a preceptor. "I've seen the evolution of the program," Nunn continued, "and the fact that we've had 100 continuous classes come through is crazy, it's a record."

Johnson later explained that there's a lot of pressure on him and his classmates being the 100th class. But Nunn believes the field will be in good hands. Nunn offered, "We all know what each of us have gone through, and when I see an ambulance and I see some 'kids' driving those ambulances, I'm thinking, 'Yeah, I know exactly what they're going through.'"

Photo: CHC Paramedic Program Alumni.

CHC Embraces ‘Spooky Season’ with First-Time Telling of Themed Production, ‘Tales of Horror and Suspense’

Spooky season is here, and the Crafton Hills College Theatre program is celebrating with a first-time stage production filled with scary but festive narratives.

“Tales of Horror and Suspense” is composed of four, one-act plays where spooky tales will leap off the pages and onto the Finkelstein Performing Arts Center stage for a night filled of haunting emotions.

“We try every so often to change things up a bit but haven’t done a Halloween-themed [presentation] yet. So, that is what is happening this year, and because Halloween traditionally has so many short stories associated with it, we wanted to do something with those short stories,” explained Paul Jacques, chair of Crafton’s Theater Arts Department, who is co-directing the production with Crafton student Sebastian Hernandez.

“Tales” is composed of the following narratives:

- “Cask of Amontillado,” a short story by

Edgar Allan Poe set in an unnamed Italian city where a man seeks revenge against a friend he feels slighted by.

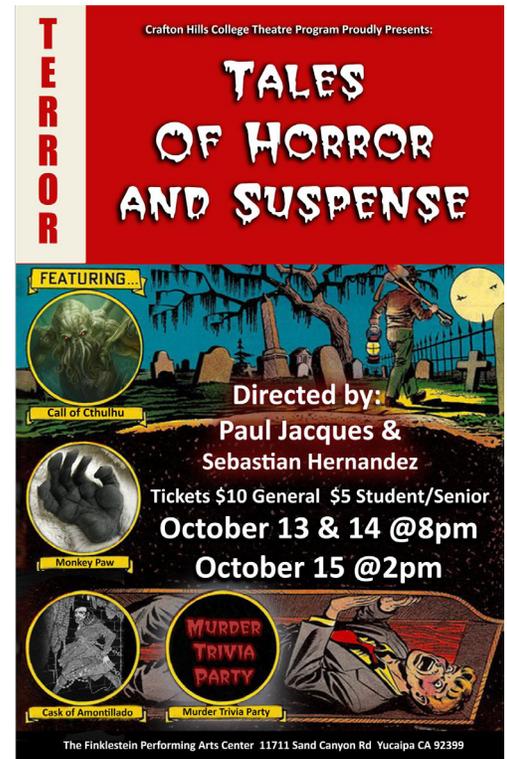
- “Monkey Paw,” W.W. Jacobs’ tale about a man who introduces friends to a monkey paw that grants three wishes but with hellish consequences.

- And two originals, “Tales of Cthulhu” and “Murder Trivia Party.”

While some may have concerns with an overall “spooky” night of theater, Jacques assures us the production will be suitable for families, comparing it to features like The Simpsons’ “Treehouse of Horrors” seasonal episodes.

“It’s going to be a fun-filled Halloween night,” he said. “This will be something that’s not too ‘out there.’”

Performances of “Tales of Horror and Suspense” will be staged at 8 p.m. on Oct. 13 and 14, and at 2 p.m. Oct. 15. General admission is \$10 per person or \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets can be



purchased the day of each performance or in advance online at www.craftonhills.edu/tickets.

To learn more about the production or Crafton’s Theater Arts program, contact Jacques by email at pjacques@craftonhills.edu.



Crafton’s Annual Transfer Fair Connects Students Directly to Universities

For students at Crafton Hills College, making transfer plans got a bit easier with an annual event that brought dozens of universities and colleges directly to them.

On Sept. 14, the Yucaipa-based college held its annual Transfer Fair, where hundreds of Roadrunners received information from universities like Cal State San Bernardino, Grand Canyon University and Loma Linda University.

“Bringing this fair to [Crafton] is important because most of our students – over 90 percent – state that their intent is to transfer to a university,” explained Mariana Macamay, University Transfer Center coordinator

at CHC. “This is an event where we can connect them to those resources so they can start planning [immediately].”

For those who were unable to make the event, Crafton’s University Transfer Center is open five days a week from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Fridays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

To learn more about the center and its year-round events, go to www.craftonhills.edu/current-students/university-transfer-center.

Photo: Transfer representative at CHC Transfer Fair.



ISIDRO ZEPEDA
SUEÑOS NEPANTLEROS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH -
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023
CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE ART GALLERY

RECEPTION & ARTIST TALK
Wednesday, October 11th, 2023
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Art Gallery

ARTIST TALK
1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Art Gallery

ALL ARE INVITED

Isidro Zepeda’s “Sueños Nepantleros” Opens at Crafton Hills College Art Gallery, Celebrating Connections to People, Nature

A new exhibit celebrating the cultural roots of the Mexican people has opened at Crafton Hills College just in time for Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations on campus.

The exhibit, “Sueños Nepantleros,” features the works of Isidro Zepeda, an English professor at Crafton who has celebrated the fabric of his roots through art.

“I think my artwork speaks to this reunion of nature and being present and to not forget the value of the earth, these elements that gives human beings life,” Zepeda explained. “I want visitors to feel connected to something they’ve lost connection to.”

“Sueños” opened September 18 in the Crafton Hills College Art Gallery, located in the Learning Resource Center. More than a dozen pieces will be on display until November 2, with a reception and artist talk planned from 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 11.

Renée Azenaro, an associate arts professor and gallery curator, said Zepeda’s work

deserves to be viewed by the college and student communities because his work is “visually exciting” while touching on spiritual elements. “On view are 15 works of art as well as a video component showing process and the interrelationship of culture, image, and narrative,” she continued.

The visual component, Zepeda shared, is a digital timelapse showing how art can help the viewer process information, find healing, and create connections. “This is my favorite part of the exhibit because of how it was conceptualized,” he explained. “It was created like a tunnel-type of construct so at the end, you have this image projected that shows everything come together.

“It starts when you close your eyes; it’s dark and somehow between that darkness we begin to dream. We see people, we see trees..., we can see many things,” Zepeda continued. “There’s a spectrum of dreaming that has become my favorite part [of the exhibit] because it gives us an opportunity to see the materialization of our dreams and how we help nurture that part ourselves.”

The projector piece – much like Zepeda’s other works on display – gives viewers a deeper connection to humanity and what is made possible by connecting to our dreams.

“We need to remind ourselves that connection is part of the nature that is life,” he said.

Zepeda has been part of the Crafton Hills College family for years, serving in the same capacity as both a part-and-full-time staff member. The 38-year-old Cathedral City resident was a first-generation college student who holds a master’s degree from Cal State San Bernardino. His parents immigrated from Mexico to the U.S. before meeting at a packing plant in Cathedral City, and the exhibit serves as a visual representation of his family’s Mexican roots and the importance of embracing our own connections to the past and present.

“To me, this art show celebrates our indigenous Cosmo vision and invites those of us who are rooted in the history to remember it and who we are,” Zepeda shared. “And for those who are not rooted in this history, I hope it inspires them to become rooted in their own history while acknowledging the systems and policies and practices that continue to oppress our people.

“I want this exhibit to unify people because at the end of it all, it is nature that connects us, it’s the spirit that connects us. And if we can remember that, I think it will make us all better human beings overall,” he added.

The Crafton Hills College Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Admission is free. To learn more, go to www.craftonhills.edu/art-gallery or call 909-389-3353.

Photo: Artwork by Isidro Zepeda.

Hispanic Heritage Month Welcomes Alumni to Inspire Current Students



journeys. Although their backgrounds differ and their degrees and careers are diverse, there was one common thread that brought them together: their unwavering belief in the power of education.

The audience, which predominantly consisted of students, asked questions about their time at Crafton and sought advice on how to advance in their own education. The panelists shared that their time at Crafton allowed them to overcome obstacles like feeling unseen, feeling hopeless and lost, uncertainty about following a major that will pay well or a major that will be fulfilling, as well as facing the dangers and taboo of being undocumented, all while being a part of the LatinX diaspora.

Crafton Hills College kicked off the Annual Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration with an in-person workshop "Why Education of LatinX Students is Critical!"

services, Dr. Delmy Spencer opened the ceremony by sharing a little about herself and the importance education has had on her as well as the impact it will have on generations to come.

At the end of the panel students expressed their gratitude and appreciation towards the panelists for their valuable insights and guidance.

A panel of four former Crafton transfers shared how education has transformed their lives. Vice president of student

The panelists were invited to introduce themselves and their higher education

Photo: CHC panelists at Hispanic Heritage Month workshop.

CHC Fire Academy I09 Car Wash

The longstanding Crafton Hills College Fire Academy car wash fundraiser had an overwhelming turnout Saturday September 23.

made pitstops to show support, including SBCCD board Trustee Dr. Nathan D. Gonzales also popping in for a quick car wash. The fundraiser has become more than just a means to raise money, it has become a symbol of unity, generosity, and kindness that reminds us of the incredible spirit that thrives in our community.

Calimesa Fire Department brought out their engines and spoke to the cadets about their own experiences going through training.



Local figures and friends of the campus all

Photo: CHC Fire Academy cadet with his children.



Crafton Hills College Ranks in the Top Fifteen Most Affordable Community Colleges in California

EDsmart, a trusted source for educational resources, lists Crafton Hills College at 15 of 116 for the 2024 Most Affordable California Community Colleges.

options is critical for many students.

Finding accessible and budget-friendly

Crafton Hills College was recognized for its commitment to providing affordable education to students while maintaining high academic standards.