



October 2020

CHC Honors Newsletter



SHARE YOUR STORY 2020

September 25, 2020

We're Getting into the Groove Now!

By: Victoria Karalun

Our classes are in full swing now, and hopefully going well for everyone! Don't be afraid to use resources such as the tutoring center if you need a little help.

We encourage you to get involved in research this semester! Yes, it can still be done while we're virtual. Most conferences are still going ahead in virtual format, and some next year may be in person, so now's the time to get that research done and submit! Reach out to a professor or Judy if you'd like to find a mentor to help, or consider attending one of Dr. Brink's Zoom workshops (check out the schedule below for dates). Have a good October!

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Professor Highlight!

>>> Josh Robles<<<

[Math]

By: Alex Manjarrez

What do you teach and what was your major?

I teach math which includes statistics. I am currently focusing on Statistics as I'm working to implement a zero-cost textbook class on the campus.



As do many students, I changed my major quite a few times. I started in computer science at MIT to a business major at Cal Poly Pomona and ended as an applied math major. I continued on to a Masters in Math at Cal Poly and tried, but did not complete, a PhD in Math at UCI.

Why did you pick that major?

Computer science, business, and math might not seem related, but I was essentially always interested in the same topics. After becoming a business major I took an upper division elective in the math department, relating to business, and felt most at home in the math department. I most enjoy the realm of applied math, specifically mathematical modeling and optimization problems.

Did you have any other careers before this one?

I have really only been involved in teaching! I was interested in business analyst and data science careers as a student but after teaching as a TA in graduate school I decided to teach full time. I tried teaching part time for a year after my Masters and really enjoyed it.

What are some things you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie. Anything that goes fast I'm usually interested in. I work on and race my cars, ride motorcycles, and recently started mountain bike riding. I also watch a bit too much anime!

What 3 words would you use to describe yourself?

Optimistic, Competitive, Utilitarian

What are your favorite foods?

I'm a big pizza and pasta person! I've even started to making my own from scratch.

What would be your perfect day?

I've always wondered how it feels to be a race car driver. A few laps around a track in a Formula 1 or Nascar would be awesome!

Would you rather experience traveling to space or to the deepest part of the ocean? Why?

My younger self would have said astronaut or space. Now I would say the ocean. The deepest parts of the ocean are some of the only unexplored areas left on earth. I would prefer to learn more about a place that is seemingly "so near yet so far."

If you could be any animal, which animal would you be and why.

Definitely a bird such as a hawk or eagle. I enjoy hiking and that feeling of being on top of the world. A high flying bird can have that feeling at will!

What is your favorite color?

Blue. But a special blue. Sparkly blue.

What is your favorite thing about teaching at Crafton Hills?

While I have only been here for a year, I like how intimate and active the campus community is. We have a lot of students involved in the Honors Program, STEM program, campus clubs, Student Senate, and more. Both students and other faculty have been very welcoming and accepting for a newbie. The awesome views around campus are a nice treat too!

What is your favorite travel destination?

I recently was able to visit Italy and was in awe by the history of the area. Being able to see thousand year old cities that were still in good condition was truly amazing. The great pizza and pasta doesn't hurt either!

Tell us something surprising about you!

I've been vegetarian since I was five. At Thanksgiving dinner I decided I wasn't ok with large-scale animal farming.

Student Highlight!

>>> Frank Sclafani<<<

By: Alex Ramos

Major:

Business Administration/ Economics

Why this major?

I first wanted to become a firefighter to give back to the community. I learned through student senate that business organization/public administration is another route to help establish public policy that benefits all.



Expected Graduation?

Spring 2021

Future Career?

Treasurer or Public Administration

What do you do in your free time?

Fishing and astrophotography.

Three words to describe yourself

Responsible, positive, disciplined.

Favorite Food

Thai food

Perfect Day?

Completing all tasks, enjoying time with family and friends.

Would you explore the deep ocean or outer space?

Deepest part of the ocean, more action there right now.

Favorite Book?

Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy by Bertrand Russell

Favorite Song?

Fight the Feeling by Mac Miller ft. Kendrick Lamar

Favorite Color?

Light Blue

What do you like about Crafton?

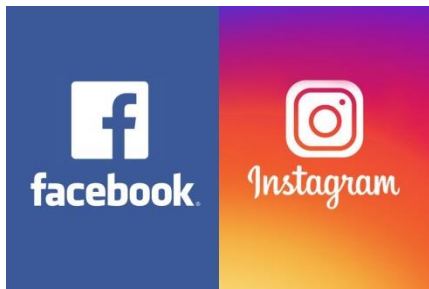
Excellent resources for information about topics outside of education.

Professor who positively impacted you?

Professor Mansourian. He teaches topics that are about relevant issues. I took his classes during the height of the American economy (microeconomics), and then during the beginning of recession (macro economics).

Interesting fact?

I met Will Ferrell at a hospital while visiting family member.



Social Media

Ashley is ROCKING our social media this year! Check out facebook.com/CHCHonors and [@CHCHonors](https://www.instagram.com/CHCHonors) to get the latest information, fun inspirational quotes, and PRIZES! We also have a new Pinterest page! Check out CHC Honors on Pinterest to find boards for self-care, volunteering opportunities, and yes, pictures of puppies and kittens 😊.

Contribute to the Newsletter

We welcome articles, poems, fiction, photography, or art from any Honors students or professors! Get your work seen and get “PUBLISHED” in your college and job applications. We have some pretty cool people in Honors and we want your voice and vision!

Email your work to vkaraun@hotmail.com.

Save The Date!

- Tuesday 6th October; 12noon: Abstract Workshop; Zoom
- Friday 16th October; 12-1pm: Poster Presentation Workshop; Zoom
- Friday 23rd October; 12-1pm: Oral Presentation Workshop; Zoom
- Sunday 1st November; Palouse Review Deadline
- Friday 6th November; Abstracts Due For CHC Student Research Conference
- Wednesday 11th November; Veterans Day; no classes
- Friday 20th November; 9am-12noon: CHC Student Research Conference; Zoom

- Saturday 21st November; SCCUR Conference, CalTech (details to come)
- Monday 23rd November – Friday 27th November; Thanksgiving Break, no classes

Instruction Suspended Because of Fires

By: Judy Cannon

Just about the time we were getting used to the campus being closed because of COVID, the El Dorado Fire erupted in our local mountains and led to suspension of even our remote instruction from Tuesday, September 8 through Thursday, September 10.

Crafton Hills College President Kevin Horan pointed out that while the Crafton campus itself was not threatened, many of our students and faculty members were placed under added stress because of mandatory evacuations or living under an evacuation warning with the looming possibility they would need to leave their homes. The decision to close the campus during the wide spread mandatory evacuations was determined to be the best and safest course of action to support the college community.

Honors students Matt and Brystal Nevins were forced to evacuate from their home just east of Bryant Street for four days. “Evacuation is not just physically but also emotional exhausting,” noted Brystal. “I’m a planner and not having any idea of when we could come back had me constantly on edge.” She and her husband Matt did get updates on the status of their home, but she said there was the real possibility it might burn down. Luckily, it survived.

In contrast, Daniel McCluskey, another Honors student who lives on the other side of Bryant Street was not evacuated. “The experience was still quite frightening,” according to Daniel, whose neighborhood was under evacuation warning. “It was definitely a distraction. We had to be ready to leave at a moment’s notice. The anticipation and fear of evacuation was definitely on my mind more than my schoolwork!”

Brystal agreed that schoolwork was not the first thing on her mind. “My mental energy was spent being inside a small room with two large dogs and keeping an anxious dog calm. Schoolwork took a back seat.”

Thank you to the Crafton administration who made the well-being of our students and staff a priority.

Share Your Story

On Friday, September 25, the Honors Institute sponsored "Share Your Story," a forum where students, alumni, and faculty could share their thoughts about the world-changing events of the previous months. We were thrilled with the response and felt that the event was a success.

Below is a poem presented at the forum by one of our Honors students, Lauren Valdez.

COVID-19

In an age of too much internet with increasing 5g speed and an age of the capability to be informed but ignorant we have come to know how foolish We the People are in our disastrously optimistic and isolated 1st world country

We have seen the greed that the wise knew was always there, the unwillingness to accept what is and what will be, and the ungratefulness in us all

The average suburban has never so strongly felt the effects of what have seemed to be a faint, far away monet image of a blurred and unclear reality

Although spring has begun, there is no spring of the heart no spring of the mind only a blossoming of xenophobia only gray skies for us today only one beautiful and long awaited sunset but with the fear comes the blessings of time that the artist cherishes but these hours become a made up curse in our quarantine

What to do and what to think?
the answer seems to be non applicable as are the hopes and dreams we had for this year
50 and 16 milestones that have to be put on hold, postponed until a "further date" a date made up in a failed attempt to seem in control

What was to be is no more life has had to be put on hold and through our uncertainty we are forced into finding the light and spirit

Our place of safety cancelled as well no more spiritual nourishment for today, tomorrow, or the next every aspect affected every aspect now inspected

In Pictures: Our Pets!

By: Victoria Karalun



Alexis Ford with Chloe



Sociology professor Julie McKee with Carbee (left) and Sparky (right)



Mari Urzua with Roscoe (left) and Sarah Williams with Luke (right)



Honors Coordinator Judy Cannon with Hook



Biology Professor Ruth Greraven with Banjo



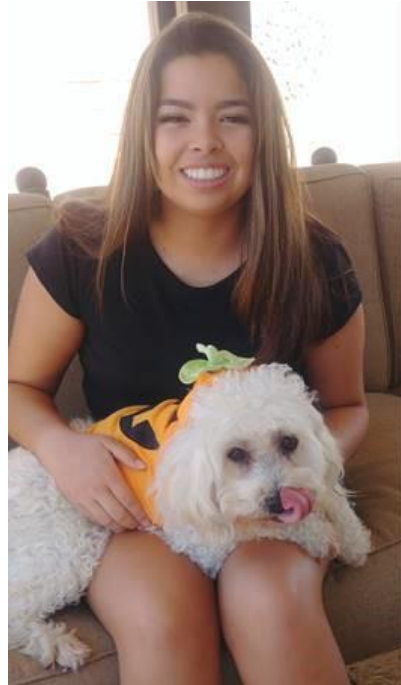
Daniel McCluskey's dog Lucy (left) and Gabrielle Sy with Chikatsky (right)



Victoria Karalun's cats Ginger and Byron (left) and Joy (right)



Brystal and Matt Nevins with Hob (short for Hobgoblin)



David Patterson's cat Dripdry and Lauren Valdez with Ginger

The winner of the gift card for submitting a photo to this newsletter is Gabby Sy! Congratulations, Gabby. Judy will contact you about what kind of gift card you want!

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