



From left to right: Board of Trustee President Patricia Rassmussen, former Vice President of Student Services Arvid Spor, former Trustee Joanne Montgomery, Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine Perri and Director of Human Resources Robert Sammis at a gathering to recognize scholarship donors and recipients in August 2013.

Board mourns former trustee

Emotional Board of Trustees remembers Montgomery for being a passionate educator

BY ALANA DALY O'BRIEN
 EDITOR IN CHIEF
 ADALYO'BRIEN@CCCLARION.COM

Former Area 5 Trustee Joanne Montgomery died Monday night, Board of Trustees President Dr. Patricia Rassmussen announced during the Citrus College Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 15. Montgomery ended her term last month as the Monrovia, Bradbury and Duarte representative on the Citrus College Board of Trustees.

Former Area 5 Trustee Joanne Montgomery. Photo courtesy of the Citrus College website.



MONTGOMERY Rasmussen tearfully said.

“A passionate educator, a tireless community servant, she dedicated her life to helping others. Her loss will not only be felt by the college, but throughout the entire San Gabriel Valley.”

Montgomery was an elementary school teacher in the Monrovia Unified School District for 32 years before being elected to the Citrus College Board of Trustees in 1999. She is survived by two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

“Citrus College was really fortunate to have such a kind, passionate and generous leader like Mrs. Montgomery,” Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine Perri said. “For more than 20 years, her dedication and love for students helped move Citrus College forward and help make it the amazing place it is today.”

Montgomery was one of three trustees retiring from their position this semester. The governing board has five members representing various areas of the Citrus Community College District.

Mary Ann Lutz, a close friend of Montgomery's, ran unopposed for her position.

She took her oath of office not long after being informed of her friend's death.

Read **MOURN**, Page 4

PRESIDENT PLANS TO RETIRE IN JULY

Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine Perri retires after close to 40 years of higher education teaching and administrative experience

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
 MANAGING EDITOR
 LARGAEZ@CCCLARION.COM

After 13 years as Superintendent/President of Citrus College, Dr. Geraldine Perri announced her retirement on Dec. 16 in an email. Her retirement will be effective in July 2021.

“It is with bittersweet feelings that I share with you my decision to retire from Citrus College effective

July 2021, after 13 years as superintendent/president and close to 40 years of higher education teaching and administrative experience,” Perri said in an email to Citrus colleagues on Dec. 16.

In her time as superintendent/president, Perri oversaw the Measure G improvements, renovations and money allocation along with the plans that will go into effect with the passing of Measure Y.

Perri's retirement announcement coincides with the turnover of three of five board of trustees positions and two prominent vice president positions.

“I have been honored to be a part of the Citrus College community, and I am very proud of the many accomplishments that we have collaboratively achieved,” Perri said.

Read **RETIRE**, Page 4

“I have been honored to be a part of the Citrus College community, and I am very proud of the many accomplishments that we have collaboratively achieved.”

Dr. Geraldine Perri
 Superintendent/President

BOT approves hiring new VP of Student Services

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
 MANAGING EDITOR
 LARGAEZ@CCCLARION.COM

The Citrus College Board of Trustees approved the hiring of the new vice president of student services on Jan. 19.

Richard Rams will officially be the vice president of student services, taking over from Arvid Spor after Spor's retirement. The Jan. 19 board meeting was officially Spor's last board of trustees meeting.

Rams was sent an interview request on Jan. 22 and has not responded for an interview.

The vice president of student services position was originally left open by Martha McDonald, who resigned Aug. 24. Spor took over

that position and the vice president of academic affairs position.

According to the Cypress College Athletics biography page, Rams has 20 years of experience in higher education. He worked at Cypress College for 15 years as the dean of student support services, kinesiology & athletics.

Rams started at Cypress College in 2006 as the dean, where he was also the director of the extended opportunity programs and services. Rams was also responsible for financial aid, the veterans resource center, CARE/CalWORKS and student activities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITRUS COLLEGE WEBSITE
 Richard Rams is the incoming vice president of student services.

In November 2018, Rams was elected as the Buena Park Library trustee during the California general election. Rams' term will be served

through 2022. He also serves as the president of the Buena Park Library board of trustees as of December 2020.

Rams began working in higher education at the University of Kansas. He was the assistant director of financial aid from 2000-2003 and was in the athletics compliance liaison. There, he developed his expertise in athletics compliance and student support programs.

Rams became the financial aid director at Golden West College in 2003 while teaching as an adjunct faculty member.

Read **HIRING**, Page 4



GRAPHIC BY VIDAL ESPINA, CLARION

Black Students on Campus Speak Up

The lack of representation and support for black students at Citrus was a major talking point at the Student Union Club

BY MEKHELA GHEBREHIWET
STAFF REPORTER
MGHEBREHIWET@CCCLARION.COM

In the aftermath of protests and racial tensions across America, students at Citrus College are feeling unsupported and unrepresented. Citrus College hosted “A Discussion: Being Black in Higher Education” virtually on Feb. 23.

Adjunct Counselor and Black Student Union Club Advisor La Quirshia Fennell led the event. Fennell questioned how 2020 impacted academics and students.

“It made me want to work harder and educate others,” Architect student and BSU club member Byron Roberts said when talking about

George Floyd’s death.

Last year, a protest took place on the corner of Grand Avenue and Foothill Boulevard in Glendora.

Black people are being murdered and imprisoned disproportionately, and Black people are not being given the same opportunities as others. With a protest of this sort being held so close to a college campus, students and faculty members were greatly affected.

“So much impacted me as a black woman,” Fennell said. “What if students don’t want help because of my skin color?” She then asked what BSU student experiences were like at Citrus.

One side of the street contained people protesting for Black lives. On the other side of the street were people diminishing the Black Lives Matter movement, countering that all lives matter.

“Nobody supports Blacks on campus,” student Sonia Ortiz said.

Student Martel Jones said, “There is not a strong presence on campus of Black people.”

Most students commented on how being Black means things are that much more difficult for them at school. Ortiz said, “Being alive in the midst of everything that Black people have to deal with mentally... we’re resilient,

overcoming.”

Fennell asked what a sense of community at Citrus would look like to BSU students. The response she got was “support.”

“African-American students are usually the only ones in their classes, and they feel they must work that much harder,” student Britney Harris said.

Representation was talked about, and students all said the same thing: Citrus needs to include more Black students when posting photos about students transferring or graduating. Citrus’ home page shows a photo of 6 students in their cap and gown, and not one of them is Black.

Citrus needs to do a better job to represent its Black students, to better inform of resources available and to recommend Historically Black Colleges and Universities when talking about transferring. Black students need more support.

“There are 107 HBCUs,” Vice President of Student Services Richard Rams said. As the new VP of Student Services, he wants Citrus’ faculty and staff to have certified training and create a sense of belonging for Black students.

“Black students just want to feel like they are supported, represented and cared for,” Ortiz said.

Bomb Threat at APU Evacuates Area

BY VICMAN THOME AND ALANA DALY O'BRIEN
STAFF REPORTER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
VTHOME@CCCLARION.COM
ADALYO'BRIEN@CCCLARION.COM

Update: At 10:24 p.m. on Feb. 17, Lt. Chivas and Lt. Sandoval have confirmed that both campuses have been reopened and deemed safe by the Azusa police department and their technical teams. APU Campus Safety is expected to lift the order on campus soon.

Update: At 10 p.m. on Feb. 17, Lt. Chivas from the Azusa police department said the main campus has been cleared, but Foothill Boulevard will remain closed. The search continues on the west campus, but Alost Avenue has been reopened. APU Campus Safety said through a text message update that the entire southern area of campus and housing has been deemed safe and is now open. The search continues in the northeast corner of campus and is not yet deemed safe.

Update: At 9:20 p.m. on Feb. 17, Sergeant Lay Aye of Glendora PD said they are “providing mutual aid” by assisting the Azusa PD in

searching the APU Campus. He believes Citrus College is in no danger whatsoever. Glendora PD will keep the area updated on social media if the threat extends to Glendora.

Shortly after 4 p.m. this afternoon, Azusa Pacific University reported a bomb threat of “several potential explosive devices being left or placed on their campus” to the Azusa Police Department. The threat arrived via email and no specific area was targeted.

Azusa PD evacuated the East and West campus of students and faculty. Azusa PD Captain Landeros and Lieutenant Sandoval said they currently do not have a number of those evacuated.

Those unable to evacuate were ordered to shelter in place. The evacuation also applies to regional campuses in Monrovia, Orange County, Los Angeles, Inland Empire, High Desert, Murrieta and San Diego.

There were no specifics as to where or when the bomb was allegedly placed. Lt. Sandoval said it is believed that Citrus College is not threatened. Officers are currently looking for suspects in or around the

area. Christine, a Tea Bar employee currently across the street from the campus, said she got an automated phone call from Azusa PD at 5:45 p.m. telling her to shelter in place. She has not received any updates as of 8:50 p.m. from police since and is afraid due to the lack of information.

Azusa PD is coordinating with Baldwin Park, El Monte, Glendora, Covina and Sierra Madre Police Departments in conjunction with the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department to respond to the threat with Azusa PD taking the lead. The police are in the process of a “grid search” on campus with canine units. They are asking the public to stay away from the area.

Christopher Rogers, a sophomore at APU, was coming back from track and field practice when he heard the alarms. He was told to evacuate by the overhead speakers as he reached his dorm.

“I don’t know why they would do this to us,” Rogers said. “We are a Christian campus. We are supposed to be spreading the word of God.”

CITRUS COLLEGE
CLARION

Alana Daly O'Brien
editor-in-chief
Lucy Argaez
managing editor
Justin George
news editor
Mekhela Ghebrehiwet
A&E editor
Brandon Jatico
features editor and multimedia editor

Staff Reporters:
Vidal Espina, Vicman Thome, Cesar Acuna, Elizabeth Alcaez, Damian Chavez, Nerissa Chee, Drew Connelly, Christal Lirungan, Kate Morey, Shadi Portillo, Jeffrey Sawyer, and Alexandra Tapia

Patrick Schmiedt
Clarion adviser
Stacy K. Long
Clarion adviser

The Clarion is produced by journalism students and is distributed every other Wednesday during the semester.

Ads are not endorsed by the Clarion.

Editorials are the opinion of at least 75 percent of the Editorial Board. All other opinion is that of the writer. Views expressed do not represent those of the adviser, faculty, administration, Associated Students of Citrus College and/or CCCBOT.

Libel will not be published. The Clarion welcomes feedback from our readers.

If you have any gripes, questions, or comments... We want to hear from you! Send your letters to ccclarion.com/letters.

All correspondence must include your student ID#, major and signature. Letters may be edited for content.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAUGH

Long live the arts at the Haugh!

The Haugh Performing Arts Center will be streaming one of its first in-person performances since the shutdown last spring

BY MEKHELA GHEBREHIWET
STAFF REPORTER
MGHEBREHIWET@CCCLARION.COM

The Haugh Performing Arts Center is expected to go back live this April with the spring musical.

Cinderella is on the horizon for live entertainment at Citrus College. However, it cannot be solidly confirmed yet due to COVID-19. Drum Tao was

also supposed to happen last October, but instead of rescheduling the show has been cancelled altogether.

Not being able to go to a box office, purchase a ticket and feel the rush of emotions as you watch passion and soul being conveyed on top of a stage to an audience full of human beings is ruining the arts. Streaming live shows

is what we are amounting to temporarily, but it's not the same as being there in person.

If a ticket was purchased to a cancelled event, the Haugh can provide a full refund. The tickets can also be used for any future shows or donated to the theater. Donations are tax deductible and support the arts.

The Haugh is working hard

to bring live shows back. It is important to continue supporting art as many programs are being forced to shut down. Virtual shows are becoming a new trend, and artists need support to continue being creative.

Tickets are currently being sold for We Banjo 3: Live from Ireland, which will be a live virtual event on March 13.

WB3 has not performed since the pandemic began, so this will be the first time in a year that they are back on stage. Tickets are on sale now at the Haugh.

Temporary Box Office phone line (beginning March 18)
(626) 653-6495
Limited Box Office Hours
Tuesday – Friday 12:00pm – 4:00pm

Citrus College implements new academic pathways

BY BRANDON JATICO
STAFF REPORTER
BJATICO@CCCLARION.COM

Citrus College will implement new academic pathways for students in the fall semester to speed up graduation and transfer and focus on career prospects. The program is being led by faculty co-leads Nicole Smith and Rebecca Rudd, who ran a presentation on Dec. 9 to the Citrus College Academic Senate detailing the new pathways.

Smith and Rudd's presentation displayed how the new pathways, labeled Career & Academic Pathways, detail what classes students need to take to give them a clear course map and job opportunity information through counseling courses and career milestones.

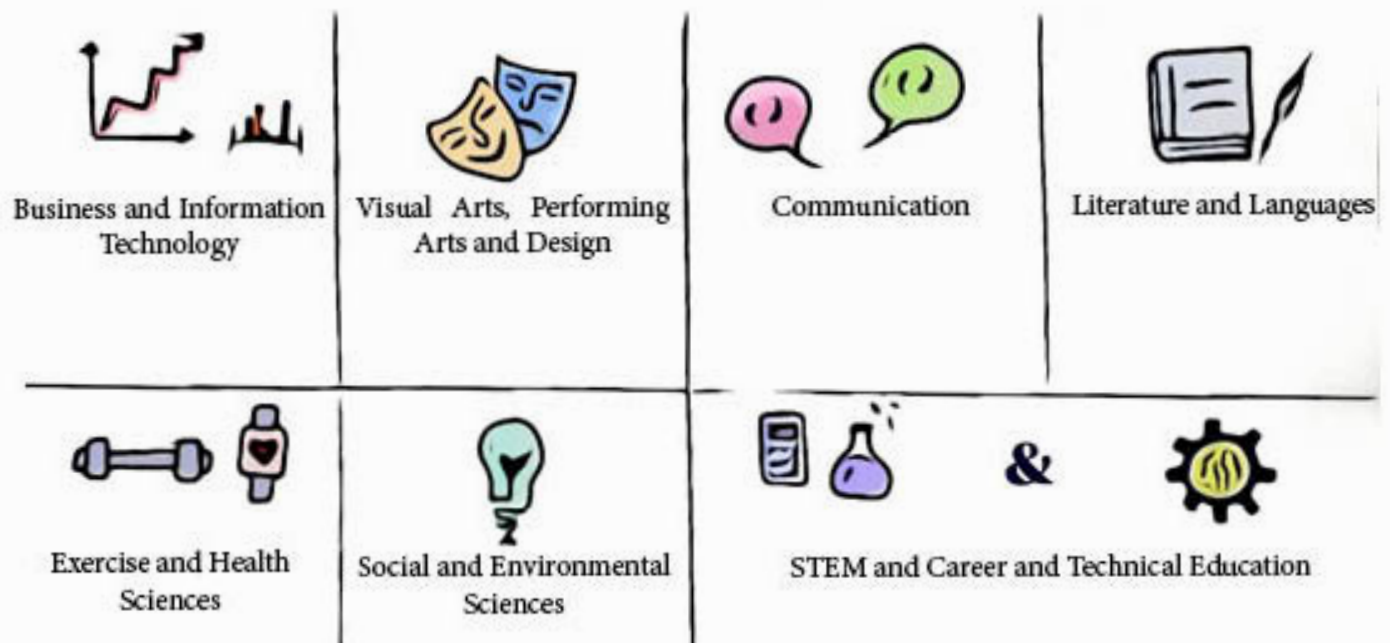
Career milestones such as when to apply for internships, creating portfolios and resumes, transfer deadlines and counseling courses that explore majors and career choices are further integrated into the pathways.

Teams built for the new pathways will also create new career events, internships and cooperative learning opportunities. These career milestones and programs are specialized for the seven

new categorized career and academic pathways that can be found on Citrus College's Guided Pathways webpage.

The seven new pathways group all majors together by related courses into different branches categorized by related career fields. The pathway groups are: Business and Information Technology; Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Design; Communication, Literature and Languages;

What path will you choose?



GRAPHIC BY LUCY ARGAEZ, CLARION

Exercise and Health Sciences; Social and Behavioral Studies; STEM and Career and Technical Education.

Within the seven CAP, the grouped majors give all students a clear course path with a special focus on students who are behind in math and English through new support classes. Students who find themselves struggling with these core subjects will now have extra support from

these new support classes as well as academic advisers following their progress, as shown from Smith and Rudd's presentation.

Academic advisers closely monitor important points within each pathway, called momentum points, and provide assistance and outreach to students. Academic advisers are placed and uniquely trained within the seven CAP to best assist

the students by monitoring momentum points and other class data to see if students are on track.

As of now only two pathways, Business and Information Technology and Social and Behavioral Studies, are fully mapped out, while those remaining will be finalized and ready for students in the fall semester.



FIRST LASTNAME - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

This where the photo caption goes, make sure to put at least two concise sentences. The first should explain the who,what,where,when,why & how, the second should have a forward spin.

Search in progress

The Board of Trustees chose PPL Inc. for superintendent/president recruitment

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
MANAGING EDITOR
LARGAEZ@CCCLARION.COM

PPL Inc. was chosen on Jan. 19 for the upcoming superintendent/president recruitment.

The position will open in July when current Superintendent/President Geraldine Perri retires.

Prior to the vote, Laura Bollinger praised PPL Inc. for its commitment to finding qualified and diverse applicants, which fits in with diversity, equity and inclusion efforts at Citrus College.

The board chose PPL Inc. after two consultants from both PPL Inc. and another group, Community College Search Services, had 10-minute presentations on

why their company should be chosen.

PPL Inc. consultant Guy Lease said that the cost of the search services would be about \$30,000-35,000 and would cover as much time as necessary to find a candidate for the position.

"The timeline that they had given us will help us to get closure by July," Board of Trustees President Patricia Rasmussen said in a Jan. 22 phone interview. "There aren't any dates, but their plan is set for January to July."

PPL Inc. Consultant Lisa Sugimoto said she will work on finding the applicants with Lease, five other partners and three senior associates.

The board of trustees elected two trustees to lead an ad hoc committee to work with the PPL Inc. search firm and report back to the board.

Trustees Patricia Rasmussen and Bollinger will lead the committee during the search for a new superintendent.

MOURN from Page 1

"Joanne's heart was with Citrus College," Lutz said. "She is a great loss to all of us who know and love her. ... Her legacy will live on, and I am proud to be serving Citrus College in the seat that she sat in."

The Clarion will have more on Montgomery and her impact on the Citrus College community in a future story.

HIRING from Page 1

From 2004 to 2005, Rams was the vice president of the California Community Colleges Student Financial Aid Administrators Association.

He also served as the chair of the CCCSFAA federal issues committee. Rams received the Presidents Award in December 2005 at the 36th annual conference for his contributions to the association.

Two years later, Rams was named one of the "Top 40 under 40" entrepreneurs and executives in Orange County by OC Metro Magazine for excelling in higher education.

RETIRE from Page 1

Perri commended the faculty, staff, students, community supporters, Citrus College Foundation Board of Directors and members of the board of trustees for the outstanding milestones the college has met.

Perri graduated from Hostos Community College of the City University of New York, where her "belief in the power of community colleges began."

She returned to the college as an associate professor of dental hygiene and later as the associate dean of academic affairs.

Perri left New York and "welcomed the opportunity for progressive professional growth experiences" in 1996 to serve as dean of career education at Mt. San Jacinto College. In 1998, she was the vice president of instruction at San Diego Mesa College.

Perri has also served as

"I am confident that the future will be bright for Citrus College with many new heights achieved and countless lives improved through the power of education."

Dr. Geraldine Perri
Superintendent/President

president of Cuyamaca College in 2002 and became the superintendent/president of Citrus College in 2008.

"Citrus College's triumphs are deeply rooted in the college's commitment to ensuring student success and completion," Perri said. "I am confident that the future will be bright for Citrus College with many new heights achieved and countless lives improved through the power of education."

GO BEYOND THE PAGE

THE ALL NEW CCCLARION.COM

- CAMPUS NEWS
- WEB BLOGS
- FEATURES & MORE

Serving the Citrus College community since 1922

NEWS | SPORTS | A&E | FORUM | SPOTLIGHT | MULTIMEDIA

WWW.CCCLARION.COM

COVID-19 on campus

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
MANAGING EDITOR
LARGAEZ@CCCLARION.COM

There is another confirmed case of COVID-19 on campus, an exposure notification was sent to all staff on Jan. 12.

Director of Human Resources Robert Sammis sent out the notification after the case had been confirmed for Jan. 6 and 7.

Sammis notified those who may have been in the area or had contact with the individual and cleaning and disinfecting of the exposed location are in progress.

There were two more reported cases on Dec. 17 in the gardening and facilities area.

The total COVID-19 case count on the Citrus College campus has reached six since the outbreak began in March.

Anyone in contact with those areas or people and that has not been contacted by the college should email Sammis at rsammis@citruscollege.edu to receive more information and further instructions.

MARCH WORKSHOPS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
8	9 11 a.m. Foster Youth Ally Training	10 2 p.m. Strengthening Communication Skills Workshop	11
15	16 1 p.m. Learning About Cognitive Behavioral Therapy	17 1 p.m. Women in the Military	18
22	23	24 2 p.m. Staying Organized Under Pressure	25 2:30 p.m. Canvas Workshop for Students

All workshops will be on Zoom.