

Commencement ceremony will be online

BY BRANDON JATICO
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Citrus College will be hosting the 2021 Commencement Ceremony as a virtual event.

Superintendent/President Dr. Geraldine Perri announced in a March 26 email to students that the ceremony will be a YouTube video despite the California Department of Public Health allowing outdoor events in a limited capacity. The video will be posted on June 12.

The email said that college leadership chose to heed the Los Angeles Department of Public Health's advice stating that while outdoor events are allowed, "that does not mean those activities are 'safe.'"

However, there are plans on having a distanced drive-up area on campus where graduating students can take graduation photos. The drive-up area will be available sometime before June 12.

Graduates can expect communication from the college in April as well as a "grad pack" in the mail with "fun swag items to commemorate their achievements."

The school is planning to launch a website dedicated to the commencement ceremony with more information in April.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PIXABAY

New Dreamer support services launched

BY JUSTIN GEORGE
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Citrus College is offering new support services to undocumented students with its new Dream Resource Center. The single-staff operation is led by UndocuLiaison Amayrani Ochoa Almeida under the Student Life and Leadership Development division established in January.

"For the undocumented community especially, it's difficult to trust someone initially because a lot of times they are afraid to disclose their status," Almeida said.

Almeida's role as an UndocuLiaison is to provide outreach to undocumented students.

The Citrus College website states that the Dream Resource Center aims to increase access to higher education, retention and completion among undocumented students. They provide services in the form of programming and events.

Almeida said that although it's hard to tell how many undocumented students attend Citrus College, there's a possible total of 771, which would make up about 4% of the student population.

She said this approximation comes from the 555 students who indicated "other/unknown" citizenship and the 216 AB540-eligible students. AB540 offers

non-resident students an exemption from paying non-resident tuition.

While neither of those statistics imply that the students are undocumented, Almeida said it's a possibility.

Almeida said the Dream Resource Center puts together workshops and presentations about financial aid information, applying for internships and scholarships and information on transferring for undocumented students.

"Although these services exist elsewhere on campus through our other departments, we specifically relate the content to the undocumented student experience."

Almeida welcomes students to schedule appointments with her to discuss qualifying for in-state tuition, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and referrals to community resources such as immigration legal services.

"There are additional barriers that they have to go through to access certain things, for example, qualifying for in-state tuition," Almeida said. "Even if a student has lived in the state of California for many years, they are still considered non-resident for tuition purposes."

The Dream Resource Center also provides an ally training called UndocuAlly training. Almeida said this training is open to any student, staff, faculty or



PHOTO OF UNDOCULIAISON AMAYRANI OCHOA ALMEIDA, COURTESY OF CITRUS COLLEGE

administrator at Citrus.

"We go over the challenges that undocumented students face in pursuing higher education, different laws and policies that affect our undocumented students and how to support our undocumented students effectively," Almeida said.

Almeida said this training

should make someone feel prepared to sit down with an undocumented student if they call upon them for support.

Almeida said a lot of events are planned for this semester and the best way to stay updated is through the department's Instagram, @citrusstudentlife.

Campus clubs are virtually struggling

Distance learning is impacting the connection between students and organization

BY VIDAL ESPINA
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Online learning is leaving students with very little options to socialize as clubs and student organizations are starting to disappear.

Pre-pandemic, the Citrus student life website listed 29 clubs for students to join and connect with others.

However in the first few weeks of the spring semester, only 10 organizations have been active.

Student Life Supervisor Rosario Garcia recognizes that since the switch to distance learning, it has been a challenge for clubs and students to connect.

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Choosing the right path: military or college?

BY MEKHELA GHEBREHIWET
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The pandemic disrupted educational plans and left students to decide whether military service holds a more secure future than their academic paths.

Citrus College Veterans Success Center Director and Navy veteran Maria Buffo said the military can offer an astounding experience.

"My experience in the military was incredible," Buffo said. "There were some not so great moments, but there were incredible memories. It has given a lot of opportunities to me and opened a lot of doors for me. I don't regret it one bit."

As stated on [usa.gov/join-military](https://www.usa.gov/join-military), U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents with a valid green card can enlist in the military. The age requirement to enlist is 17 with parental consent or 18 without. The age limit goes up to 28 in the Marines, 31 in the Coast Guard, 34 in the Army, and 39 in the Air Force and Navy. Enlistees must have a high school diploma or GED and be physically fit.

Air Force Veteran Diane Landaverde will begin the Citrus College Cosmetology program this fall. She said the military is a steady place to be employed, especially since more people have stopped pursuing their degrees.

Although there are restrictions on who can join the armed forces, there are still many benefits. [Usa.gov/military-and-veterans](https://www.usa.gov/military-and-veterans) states service members are provided with free on-the-job training, money for education and housing, affordable healthcare and benefits such as 30 days paid vacation upon beginning employment.

"Illegal drug use, health



PHOTO COURTESY OF CITRUS COLLEGE

"A college education is important because it provides options. I think it is times like this where education is important because it can give students something to fall back on."

Raquel Gutierrez
Citrus College counselor

conditions such as eczema and asthma, or an enormous amount of debt would be a few reasons someone could get disqualified," Landaverde said. "Criminal records too, depending on the circumstances."

Landaverde said the military is a stable working environment. However, Citrus College counselor Raquel Gutierrez said in an email

that an education gives students more mobility in the workforce.

"A college education is important because it provides options," Gutierrez said. "I think it is times like this where education is important because it can give students something to fall back on."

When everything shut down, many people lost their jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor stated roughly 22 million people became unemployed due to the pandemic.

COVID-19 also halted many job prospects for active military who planned on ending their contracts to start out in the civilian sector. As stated by Wall Street Journal reporter Andrew Jeong on Feb. 16, about 92% of the U.S. Army's eligible personnel reenlisted.

The National Student Clearinghouse claims college and university enrollments declined by

"My experience in the military was incredible. There were some not so great moments, but there were incredible memories."

Maria Buffo
Veterans Success Center director and Navy veteran

2.5% in 2020.

The Citrus College admissions office was sent three interview requests between March 16 and March 25 but has not responded. It remains unclear whether or not Citrus' admissions were affected since there are many articles speculating college admissions is actually rising.

A March 16 Wall Street Journal

Article reported many Ivy League schools have waived SAT and ACT requirements, which has led to a flood of applicants.

There are many pros for joining the military, but Buffo said there are still a few cons such as diversity.

When recruiting, the military is actively trying to diversify since it is known for being predominantly male and white.

Cory Dickstein stated in an October 2020 Stars and Stripes article that the service is seeing a breakthrough among new enlistees. Non-whites were about 47% of the 2020 recruits for the Army, and 18% were women. This is up from roughly 45% in 2018 and 2019.

"I worked twice as hard just to break the stigma," Buffo said. "We are not too frail, we can take care of ourselves, we've proven that many times over. The military has its challenges, but progress is being made. Progress has been made, and progress will continue to be made for women in the military."

She said her time served in the military made her realize how differently women are perceived, and she defied the odds.

Landaverde said the military has been making more room for women to become leaders, and for students who are unsure of what to do with their futures, it's a great place to be. However, Gutierrez said Citrus College is a great place to make these big decisions.

"For those students who are unsure of what to study or what career to pursue, the college environment provides a safe space to explore," Gutierrez said. "Citrus College offers many resources to help undecided students such as counseling classes, career assessments and career counseling."

Faculty contract negotiations reach impasse

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
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The faculty contract negotiations have officially halted and a new date to renegotiate will not be set until a mediator is selected.

A state mediator will be appointed within the next two weeks by the Public Employment Relations board.

"It is not entirely clear what the terms for a new agreement the Faculty Association will insist on, which is why the district thinks mediation will be helpful to get clarity to produce an agreement that will be ratified," Director of Human Resources and the district's chief negotiator Robert Sammis said in a phone interview.

The PERB will determine if the Faculty Association and District are at an impasse and if so, will then appoint a mediator at the end of this week. Chief negotiator for the Faculty Association and automotive tech professor Dave Brown said in a phone interview a specific timeline will be available by early next week once things are finalized.

"The District invited us to jointly declare impasse; our side decided not to do that because we still have flexibility in our positions," Brown said. "The District has offered no flexibility in their position, so if they think they need the assistance

"The District has offered no flexibility in their position, so if they think they need the assistance of a mediation, we are happy for them to do that."

Dave Brown
chief negotiator for the faculty association and automotive tech professor

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Mediation dates will not be set until the declaration is approved and a mediator is selected, wherein both parties will meet and see if an agreement is reached.

"There is some confusion as to whether the Faculty Association is insisting on a \$5,000 one-time bonus payment as part of the agreement," Sammis said. "If they insist upon that, it would be an issue that further separates us from reaching an agreement."

The position of the faculty according to a memo sent to all full-time faculty by Sammis is a 2% on-schedule salary increase effective January 2021, a \$5,000 one-time bonus payment and re-opener dates in the contract to discuss salary in October 2021 and 2022.



FILE - CLARION

Communications and Language Arts professor Theresa Villeneuve protests in front of the Administration building May 1, 2018 with faculty, demanding a fair contract.

In a board meeting on March 16, the district said it would "not move from their last, best and final offer," which had been proposed in November. The offer would not allow for a re-opener in the contract to discuss a salary increase in the next three years.

The District position, according to the memo, is a 2% on-schedule salary increase effective upon ratification of agreement; expires Dec. 31 2023, unless modified by a subsequent agreement, no additional bonus beyond the \$1,500 paid in spring 2021 per the

memorandum of understanding, and no re-opener dates.

"The main thing for me is that this is a huge disappointment because the district's team, in fairness to them, did some really good work to resolve (the) other issues (like the MOU)," Brown said.

Fun activities to do this weekend

BY MEKHELA GHEBREHIWET
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As of March 15, thirteen counties, including Los Angeles County, began reopening according to the Department of Public Health. This reopening of L.A. County means we can begin to dine indoors, go to the gym and even museums. Here are a few suggestions of things you can currently, or in the very near future, do.

Amusement Parks

Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knotts Berry Farm and other L.A. attractions are opening back up with capacity restrictions this April to California residents.

"A reopened Disneyland won't be the same as a reopened Walt Disney World," Deanne Revel of Conde Nast Traveler said on March 12. "Indoor dining is a no-go and indoor attractions such as dark rides (rides constructed in an indoor setting such as Pirates of the Caribbean) and shows will have additional restrictions."

Although there are still restrictions in place for everyone's safety, reopening means getting out of the house and having fun while still being safe.

The tiers are as follows: purple is widespread, red is substantial with 5-8% positive tests, orange is moderate and yellow is minimal with less than 2% positive tests according to the California Department of Public Health. L.A. County is currently in the red tier, so capacity will be open at 15%.

Disneyland's limited-time experience, Touch of Disney, is on sale now. Tickets are \$75 and include parking plus a \$25 redeemable dining card and unlimited digital downloads of Disney PhotoPass photos.

• <https://disneyland.disney.go.com/events-tours/a-touch-of-disney/>



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Taste of Universal is now open 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. select Fridays through Sundays. The price range is \$44 to \$54 depending on the day of the week you attend. Enjoy outdoor foods and drinks in your favorite lands such as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™ and Springfield, USA.

• <https://www.universalstudioshollywood.com/web/en/us/things-to-do/events-and-seasonal-activities/taste-of-universal-food-event>

Knott's Berry Farm's Taste of Boysenberry Festival is open through May 2 with over 80 boysenberry-infused foods and drink items. Tickets are \$20 to \$45.

• <https://www.knotts.com/events/taste-of-boysenberry-festival>

Parks

There are many parks still open to the public. For example, Bonelli Park in San Dimas and Echo Park

Lake in Echo Park are two great places to kick back and listen to music, or watch ducks and turtles sunbathe. Don't forget to bring a blanket and some snacks.

Bonelli Park has kayaks and canoes for rent. At Echo Park, you can usually catch some street food like churros, elote or street dogs. Echo park also has \$11 swan pedal boats available for rent, but online reservations are required.

• <https://wheelfunrentals.com/ca/los-angeles/echo-park/rentals>

Hiking

Going outside is the easiest and cheapest trip you can take. You can go on a walk, jog or even hike.

Eaton Canyon Falls Trail in Pasadena is an easy trail with a waterfall reward at the end. The trail is open with a timed reservation slot which can be made online. As with everything else, it's advised to keep a mask on and keep at least 6 feet distance away from other hikers.

All Trails is a great app to find local hiking trails. It also tells you whether a trail is easy, moderate or hard, and how long it will take you to complete the hike.

• <https://www.alltrails.com/>

L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation is also a great place to get the most up to date information about hiking trails that are currently open, as some trails are still closed due to COVID-19.

• <https://trails.lacounty.gov/>

Botanical Gardens

Strolling in a garden with a popsicle as the weather begins to warm up is a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens in Arcadia is \$15 per adult or \$11 per student with a valid ID.

• <https://www.arboretum.org/visit/hours-and-admission/>

The Huntington Library in San Marino is \$29 per adult or \$24 per student/active military with a valid ID.

• <https://www.huntington.org/plan-your-visit>

California Botanic Garden in Claremont is \$10 per adult or \$6 per student with a valid ID.

• <https://www.calbg.org/>

Movies

Pre-pandemic, Street Food Cinema had a great lineup of food vendors and live entertainment, but now they are open strictly to show us movies from our cars or a blanket in the grass.

Street Food Cinema is open with movie showings posted currently through April 3. Locations vary depending on the movie, as listed on their site.

It costs \$20 per car and \$8 per person inside of the vehicle, and is free for children under 3.

• <https://streetfoodcinema.com/schedule/los-angeles/>

Mission Tiki Drive-In Theatre in Montclair is open 7 days a week with a \$10 admission for adults.

• <https://missiontiki.com/>

Vineland Drive-In in the city of Industry is open and admission is \$10 for adults. Concessions such as nachos, hot dogs and popcorn are also available for purchase here.

• <https://www.vinelanddriveintheater.com/>

Museums

Museums and zoos can open with limited capacity. Most are still showing as closed, but expect to see them opening sooner rather than later.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art is closed, but its outside art is free and open to visitors of the public.

Citrus builds bridges for men of color

Citrus hosts a support program for men who are seeking opportunities to network and form meaningful connections

BY MEKHELA GHEBREHIWET
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The Men of Color Mentor Program created a safe space at their conference on March 26 where men could be vulnerable with one another, and they plan to replicate this in their program going forward.

The program is directed towards male students of color, but peers and allies were welcome to join the conversation at the event. The program provides the opportunity to network and form meaningful connections with people who are invested in their success.

"We're all here to support each other," Career/Transfer Center counselor Rafael Herrera said.

The mentors made it clear that there is no reason for anyone to be afraid to ask for what they need. The responsibilities of mentors are to support, assist and counsel

those they mentor.

"Asking for help is not a weakness, and learning to seek help is a strength," nursing counselor Jorge Acosta said.

All men face sets of challenges in life that society has taught them to keep inside, especially when it comes to emotions. This program is designed to provide a safe space for men of color to share who they are and what obstacles they face while providing support and wisdom on how to overcome those obstacles.

"Take advantage of all the opportunities that you have," Extended Opportunity Programs and Services and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education counselor Raul Sanchez said. "Ain't no shame in flipping burgers at McDonald's."

The program acknowledges building trust with a stranger is difficult, but showing up and getting to know each other

"Asking for help is not a weakness, and learning to seek help is a strength."

*Jorge Acosta
nursing counselor*

will make the experience in this program more than just a business relationship.

"Overcome by never letting someone who doesn't know you define who you are or label you to what you can accomplish," business professor Levi Richard said. "The key is to never let the obstacles prevent you from obtaining your goals."

The Men of Color Committee awarded scholarships to the following four students: Anthony Gandara, George Garcia, Michael Estrada and Bihjan Harvey.

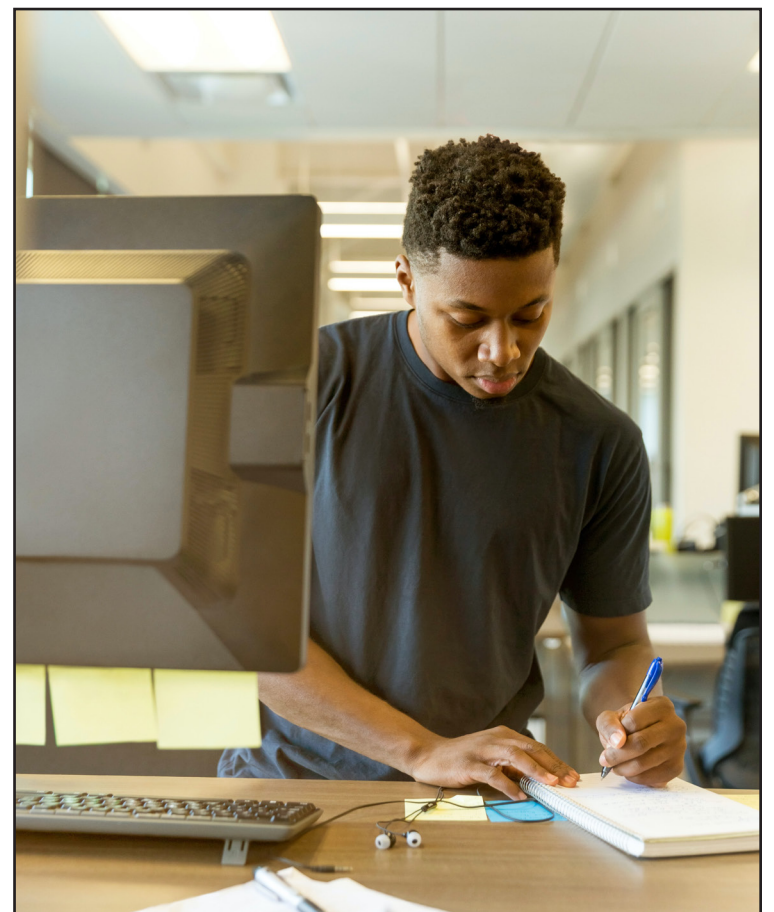


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Review

A jazzy livestream performance promoted by the Haugh

BY LUCY ARGAEZ
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The Haugh Performing Arts Center's latest livestream event "David Benoit live from the Armstrong Theater" took place at 7 p.m. on April 3.

It was streamed live by the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation as the concert took place at the James R. Armstrong Theater in Torrance, California. 107 people attended the show virtually.

Benoit was accompanied by Dan Scnelle on the drums, Roberto Valle on the bass and Justin Klunk on the saxophone. Klunk was one of Benoit's

students during his time in the Youth Orchestra.

The concert included two never-before-heard songs written during quarantine titled "At Home" and "Generations," composed and played by Benoit. The songs were written as a tribute to Dave Brubeck, who Benoit has worked with and admired.

"It's simply called 'At Home,' and when I was playing it today it brought me back to that moment almost a year ago when everything had shut down," Benoit said during the concert.

Benoit also played songs he composed featured on his other albums such as "Freedom at

Night," "Vernazza," "Dave G" and "Kay's Song." Kay's song was written for and dedicated to his wife.

"Of all the songs I have ever written, I am most proud of this one," Benoit said. "Since she is in the audience today, I will dedicate this song to my wife Kay: this is 'Kay's Song.'"

The new album has yet to be recorded, but Benoit said more details about it will be made available as things progress with its creation.

"I am thrilled to be here on stage," Benoit said. "I think the guys are excited to be here playing music together again."

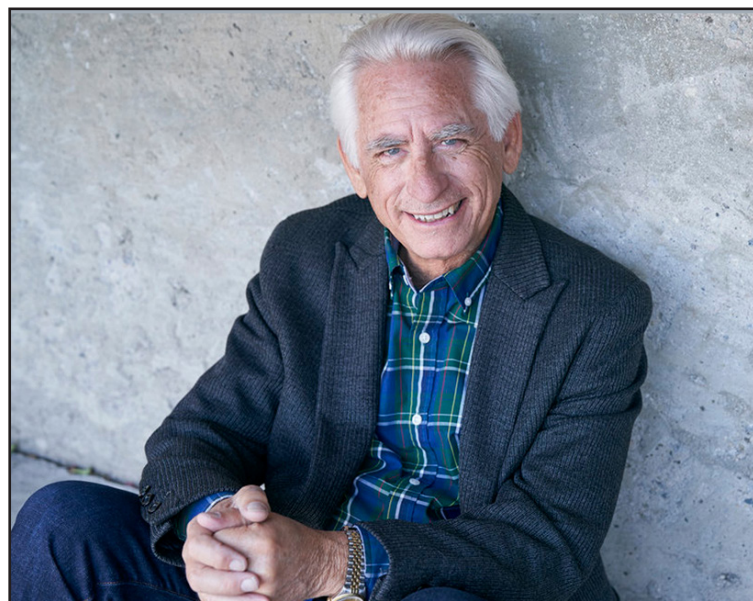


IMAGE COURTESY OF THE HAUGH

Read Clubs from Page 1

Britney Harris, president of the Black Student Union, said her experience transitioning from in-person to online format has been a challenge. She attributes some of that challenge to students spending a majority of their time on Zoom for classes, making it harder for them to schedule more time on Zoom for extracurricular activities.

Jennifer Calderon, vice president of community services for the honor society Alpha Gamma Sigma, said that the initial transition to virtual did not affect member activity in the beginning but further into the experience member attendance fluctuates week to week.

In addition to these two organizations, eight more were confirmed active by Commissioner of Inter-Club Council Relations Uriah Jacob Lopez.

Lopez wrote in an email that honor society Phi Theta Kappa, Cheer Club, Anime Connection, Student Veterans of America, Political Science Student Association, Speech Club, Latinos Unidos Student Association and the Citrus Business Association have all been active in recent weeks.

Despite the struggles and hardships of the transition and maintaining activity online, the Black Student Union and Alpha Gamma Sigma have had to think of creative ways to not only engage their members, but also stay true to their organization's goals.

Harris said that for the Black Student Union, communication has mostly switched off of Zoom and has transitioned to a group



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

text where conversations cover a wide range of topics.

"In our group text we don't just talk about school, we talk about all kinds of things: the world, rent-relief, the stimulus checks, all kinds of stuff, financial aid," Harris says, noting that she used to work in financial aid. "So, we talk about that and turning in your FAFSA on time."

In addition to the casual engagement of some group text conversations, the club is still focused on producing events.

Harris said their first spring semester event, "Being Black in Higher Education," proved successful and they are currently planning fundraising events so their club can continue conducting other events.

Philanthropy and volunteer work for the community is at the core of Alpha Gamma Sigma.

Calderon said that Alpha Gamma Sigma has had to think of creative ways to do their volunteer programs online.

Calderon said they recently participated in a letter writing effort aimed to provide hand written letters, or virtual cards, to be distributed to people with disabilities, children at St. Jude's hospital, seniors and the Meals on Wheels program. The event

also provided an opportunity for their members to engage with each other on a personal level through the online group format.

Last semester, Garcia said there were a lot of deactivations for many reasons. Some seemed to be related to the difficulties of being virtual.

Garcia said some clubs and their advisors felt they did not have the time to be an active club

while taking classes online.

She said she understands the decision for some clubs to deactivate and is supportive if they choose to reactivate in spring or even wait until next fall.

Clubs that deactivated in the fall were given an opportunity to reactivate this semester.

Lopez said all clubs and organizations were given until midnight March 22 to file their club rosters and other filings to either retain their active status or to reactivate for the spring semester.

However, Garcia wrote in an email that some clubs and organizations needed extra time to file their forms, so they were given until March 29 to do so.

She also wrote that processing those forms is a time-consuming process and probably won't have the club list updated until after Friday, April 2.

For more information on existing clubs and organizations, how to start your own club, as well as information to get involved with the Inter-Club Council, the body that manages student organizations, visit: <https://www.citruscollege.edu/stdntsrvt/studentaffairs/ascc/clubs/Pages/default.aspx>.

APRIL & MAY WORKSHOPS

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday
19 3:30 P.M. GOAL SETTING	20 2 P.M. MEMORY TECHNIQUES	21 11:30 A.M. LEARNING STYLES	22 10 A.M. NOTE TAKING
26 3:30 P.M. TIME MANAGEMENT	27 2:30 P.M. STRESS MANAGEMENT	28 12:30 P.M. STUDY SKILLS	29 10:30 A.M. MATH ANXIETY
03 1:30 P.M. MEMORY TECHNIQUES	04 10:30 A.M. GOAL SETTING	05 3:30 P.M. NOTE TAKING	06 2 P.M. LEARNING STYLES
10 11:30 A.M. MATH ANXIETY	11 2 P.M. TIME MANAGEMENT	12 1:30 P.M. TEST TAKING	13 4 P.M. STRESS MANAGEMENT

CITRUS COLLEGE CLARION

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