

# PAW PRINT

SPRING 2019





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SPRING 2019

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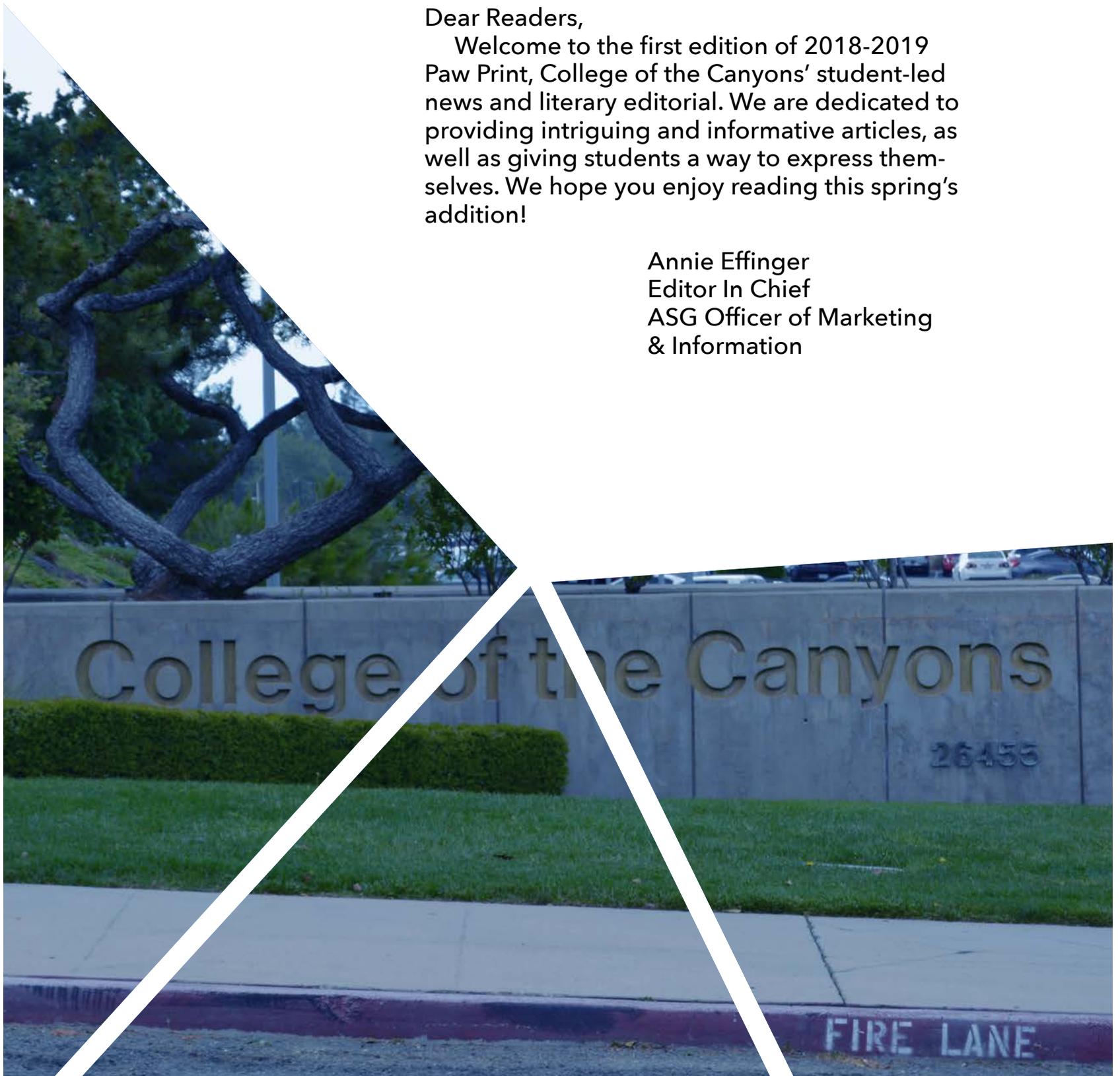
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# LETTER FROM THE STAFF

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of 2018-2019 Paw Print, College of the Canyons' student-led news and literary editorial. We are dedicated to providing intriguing and informative articles, as well as giving students a way to express themselves. We hope you enjoy reading this spring's addition!

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# STUDENT LIFE HACKS

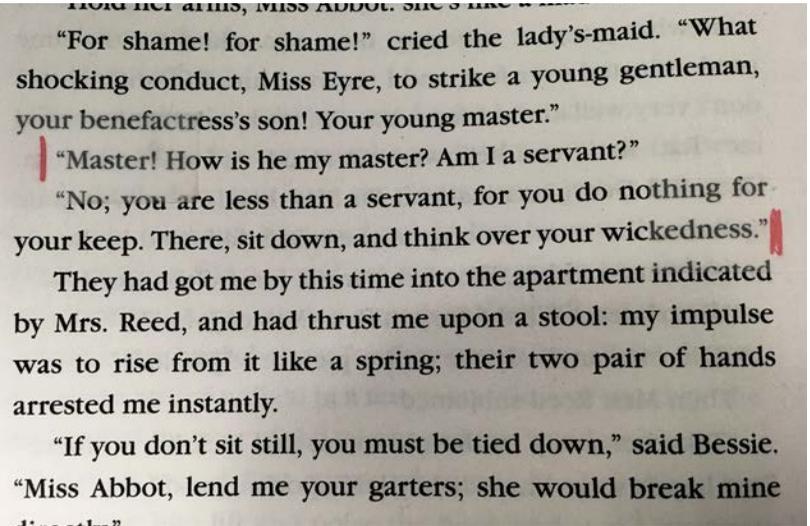
BY Annie Effinger & Cait Malilay  
Photos By Annie Effinger



## HOW TO ANNOTATE READINGS

Let's face it. College students dread having to do the assigned readings from classes, but how else are students going to retain the information? What exactly is needed to succeed at nailing that test? Follow this guide. Textbooks are quite expensive, but the library has books that can be borrowed and used within the premises. Students can simply take photos of the pages of the assigned readings, but information will not simply be retained by just making copies, it is important to annotate. All that is needed to succeed at annotating is three highlighters, red and blue or black pens, post-it flags, and of course, lined paper. On personal copies, use the highlighters to mark anything pertinent. If it is a long passage, do not highlight the entire thing! Use a red pen to mark the beginning and end. In addition, highlighting within the passage and jotting down little notes may help. The red pen can be used for circling and connecting notes. The black or blue pen can be used for writing the actual notes. What is considered crucial? When in doubt, just mark it. If everything seems significant, summarize each page within a range of 3-5 sentences. If the textbook is being rented or borrowed, take notes on a separate piece of paper. Summarize each page with 3-5 sentences while taking note of key phrases or words. That should be just enough to brush the memory when studying for an exam.

## 4 - CAMPUS LIFE



hands.

"Mind you don't," said Bessie; and when she had ascertained that I was really subsiding, she loosened her hold of me; then she and Miss Abbot stood with folded arms, looking darkly and doubtfully on my face, as incredulous of my sanity.

"She never did so before," at last said Bessie, turning to the Abigail.

"But it was always in her," was the reply. "I've told Missis often my opinion about the child, and Missis agreed with me. She's an underhand little thing: I never saw a girl of her age

## PREPARING FOR OFFICE HOURS

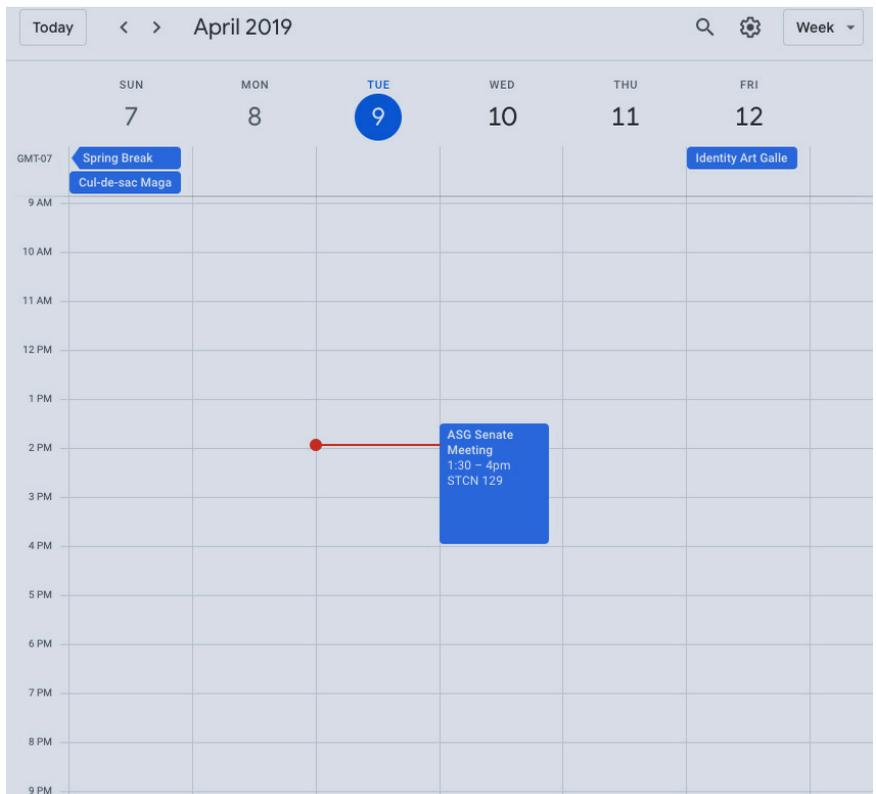
1. Prepare a list of questions! When a professor is not teaching, they use their office hours for grading and for time to meet with students to discuss any questions or concerns a student may have.
2. Have supplies ready! To avoid awkwardly digging in your backpack for an essay or pen or pencil, have it ready to grab. Put it in a folder and hold it on your way to the office or put it somewhere in your backpack where it is easily accessible.
3. Don't be nervous for office hours. Professor's are people too, and it is their job to encourage students and to help them out if they need anything academic-wise.

## HOW TO FIND DISCOUNTED OR FREE FOOD WHEN IN NEED

We all know that food is essential, especially for growing college students that need to feed their minds. With the increasing college rates, students are having a harder time handling school costs. Currently at COC, according to the newest survey dispersed by canvas, 35% of the COC student respondents reported having low food security or marginal food security, meaning that they did not always have enough to eat. With this growing problem, there needs to be solutions. Here are the on-campus resources, and ways to find discounted food on campus. The BaNC, which is the re-branded food pantry, offers students snacks or quick meal options if necessary. The Cougar Cafe in the cafeteria also has a value menu for grab and go meals. Haven't heard of the value menu? They love when you ask! The Cougar Cafe value menu has some quick breakfast and lunch options for \$2.69 (see menu below). There are other ways to find discounted food outside of school too. Places that offer discounts, deals, and rewards for students include Chick-fil A, Chipotle, Buca di Beppo, Fire House Subs, and Pizza Hut. All you have to do is show proof that you are a student with a current college ID card (COC IDs can be acquired in the Student Development Office, in the Student center, Room 102).



Graphic by Akemi Lucas

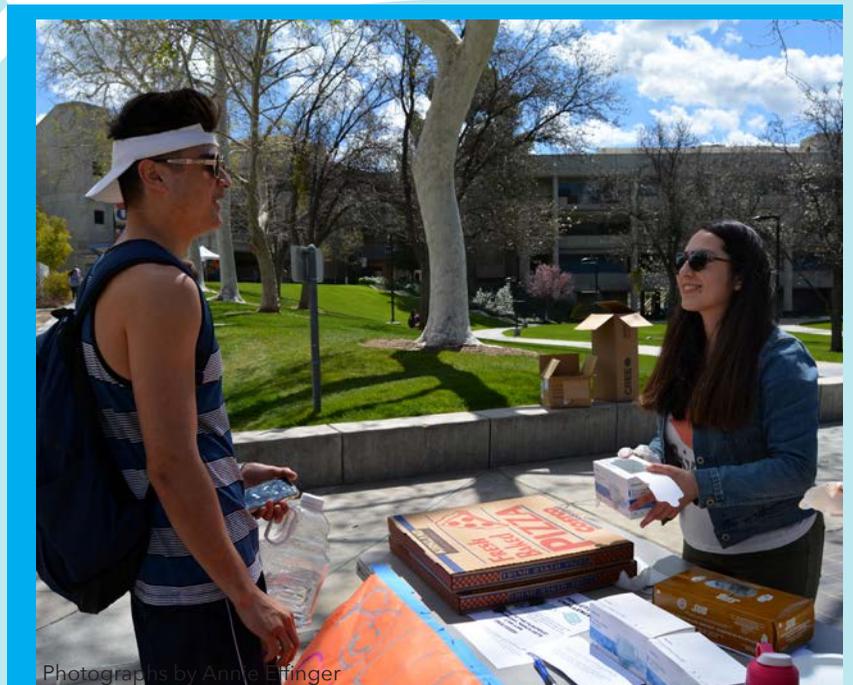


Graphic from Google Calendar

## HOW TO MANAGE YOUR TIME

Students have to juggle a lot while attending school, and time is always fleeting. So, how can students keep organized and better manage their time? Here are a few tips to help improve your time management skills.

1. Eliminate distractions. These days, people are constantly glued to their precious phones. These nifty little devices can lead to our downfall, eating up time before important work is finished. It is common to be tempted to check your phone, but it is best to wait until all work is done and you have time to relax. To complete work without any distractions, close Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, etc, place the phone on silent or turn it off, and hit the books!
2. Get organized. Calendars and checklists can make a person's life a breeze. Calendars can help plan out days, remember appointments and meetings, and hold you to obligations. Checklists can be used alongside a calendar. Checklists can ensure you stay on task and finish your work. There is also that satisfying feeling of accomplishment when you get to check something off the list.
3. Know when to rest. Sticking to a sleep schedule and giving yourself at least seven hours each night can help your mind and body get the rest it needs, leading to a refreshed and energized feeling the next day. The trick is to study a little every day to avoid pulling all nighters, which tend to be less productive than consistent studying.



Photographs by Annie Effinger

# HUMANS OF COC



## **Anushka Hossain**

### **What are you most thankful for?**

"I am most thankful for my family who has done everything for me. I am so lucky that I have such good parents who had the courage and trusted me, to send me thousands of miles away to pursue my dreams. There are only a few people who get to come to the USA and enjoy its education and get to have American friends as you see in American movies."



## **Carlos Madriz**

### **What is your best memory?**

"My best most positive memory is probably the day I got my first guitar, after wanting one for so long. I used to play with a broom and people use to laugh at me because I would use my imagination, and then God put a guitar in my hands. That is when I knew God was real."



## **Grace Lueck**

### **How would you describe yourself in one word and why?**

"I'd have to say passionate. I put myself fully into everything I do. I love my friends, and I try to do things that make me happy and other people happy."



## **Patrick Naginis**

### **What is the coolest thing you have ever done?**

"The coolest thing that I have ever done I'd say is [winning] first place in a dance competition."

### **What kind of dancing?**

"It was swing dance."



## **Elizabeth Coletto**

### **What are you looking forward to in the future?**

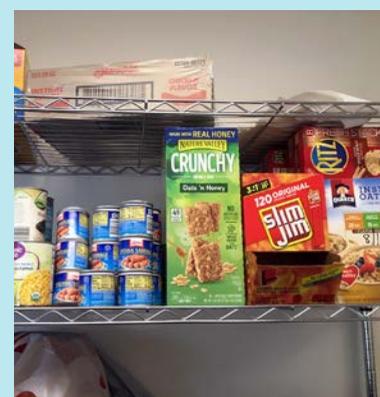
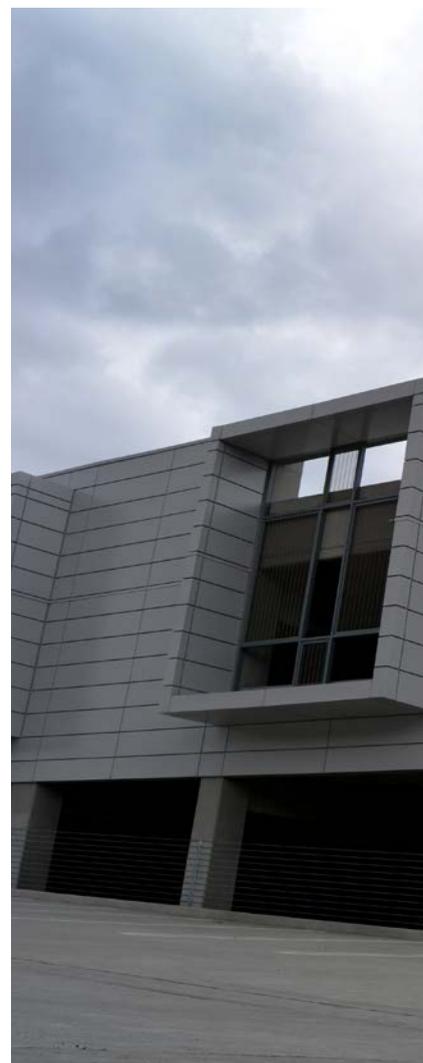
"Probably to what I am going to do as a career."

# WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

BY Annie Effinger

## THE BASIC NEEDS CENTER

Have you heard of the BaNC before? The Basic Needs Center, aka the BaNC, is the revitalized Food For Thought Pantry. It is open to all COC students in need of food, clothing, personal hygiene items, and assistance in housing and social services. In order to use the BaNC, students must be currently enrolled in courses at COC. The food offered includes nonperishables such as canned vegetables, instant oatmeal, chili, ramen, protein bars, apple sauce, and other snack items. Nonperishable food donations are always welcome. Kenisha Powell who works at the BaNC said, "within the first week that we opened we served 300 students that week." Powell mentioned that students can swipe their card and are able to grab two items and a drink if needed, once a day. The Cougar Rack, which is clothing, is also put out on Tuesdays for students to look through. Powell noted that if further assistance is needed, the COC BaNC has a case manager who can help with more food services, MediCal sign up assistance, and aid in finding housing. The BaNC is located in the Student Center, room 123B, across from Hasley Hall. It is open from 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday-Thursday and 9:00am-1:00pm Fridays. ALL COC students are welcome!

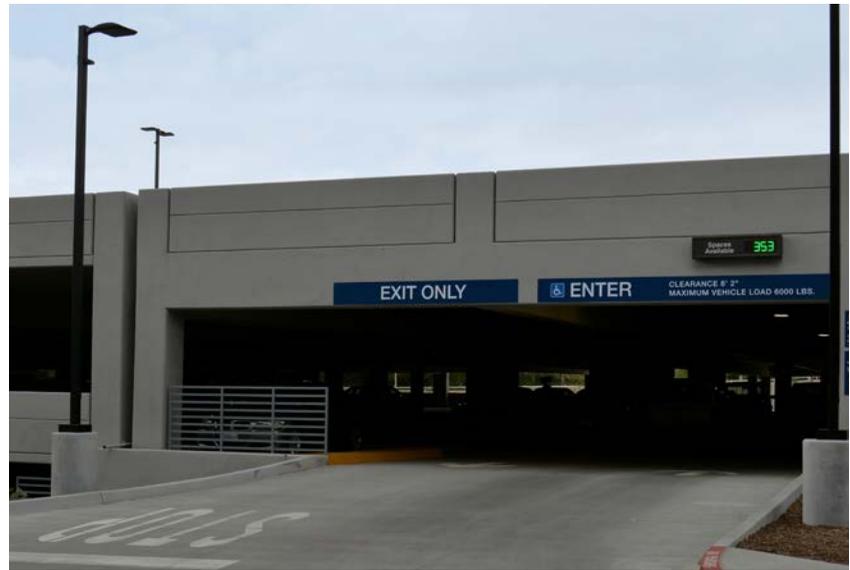


Photographs by Annie Effinger



## **PARKING STRUCTURE**

Anyone driving on Valencia Boulevard will see the completed COC parking structure which opened Monday, February 4th, just in time for the start of the spring semester. The three level structure, which took over the old lot #7, offers students 1,659 new parking spaces. The project which broke ground on April 26, 2018 cost 21 million dollars and was funded by the Measure E bond measure which voters approved in 2016. Parking prices will not increase with the new lot so students can continue to purchase parking permits for \$50 per semester.



Photographs by Annie Effinger

## **HOW SAFE IS THE FOOD WE EAT?**

We all eat and enjoy numerous fruits and veggies, but never ponder what's on them and how they may affect our health. Or, we are skeptical and have questions, but can never find answers because there is insufficient research. The most harmful pesticide on our produce today is Chlorpyrifos, an insecticide that is permitted to pass through the EPA. You must be wondering, "Why should I even care?" Well, this not only affects people, but the environment and the planet. Chances are you've made contact with Chlorpyrifos in some way, even if you don't eat fruits, veggies, or nuts, because you can inhale it and get it on your skin. Chlorpyrifos is not only on food, but it is sprayed on golf courses and parks. Chlorpyrifos is used nationwide, but extensively in California on more than 60 crops, including almonds and oranges. It has even contaminated our drinking water in some areas. The people that are the most impacted are those that receive the most exposure such as farm workers and their communities, as there have been countless accounts of poisoning from Chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos is being released into the air, and breathing it has led to many people developing asthma and lung cancer. Numerous university studies discovered a correlation between exposure to Chlorpyrifos and cancer, as well as leading to lower IQs and stunting neurodevelopmental growth in children. A peer-reviewed study conducted by faculty at UC Irvine followed 40 children, 20 of which were highly exposed to Chlorpyrifos, and compared results to 20 children with low-exposure. By taking MRI scans of the children, they discovered that the group highly exposed to the chemical had enlarged temporal lobes, which associated with lower IQ scores. Additionally, Chlorpyrifos permeates into fishes' fatty tissue and has killed innumerable fish, birds, bees, amphibians, and reptiles. It can also take years for the soil to decompose Chlorpyrifos. The question is, "What can we do about this?" It is important to be conscious of what you eat, and always wash the produce that you buy. Currently, many scientists, doctors, and organizations are working to call for a ban. There is also a petition on the National Resources Defense Council website that you can fill out. <https://www.nrdc.org/chlorpyrifos>

# WOMEN'S A Conversation with Katie Hill and Christy Smith

# CONFERENCE



Photograph by Annie Effinger

Students from both AOC and COC joined forces on Saturday, March 23 during the 2019 College of the Canyons Women's Conference to ask fellow COC alums Congresswoman Katie Hill & Assemblywoman Christy Smith some pressing questions.

**Annie Effinger:** I know that you both started your college careers at COC. Can you give us a brief description of your education and career paths and how you got to where you are today?

**Christy Smith:** I graduated from Hart High School and as I described in my speech earlier, a four year university just wasn't an option for me. Even though I had done well in high school and had activities and good test scores I was being raised by a single mom and we couldn't afford it. Living here in Valencia, we have this beautiful gift of this

community college. It was a great place for me to start. I had to work full time in order to cover my fees and expenses, but while I was here I got a job on campus and that just kept transitioning me to higher level jobs during the time that I was here. I was also in ASG. I was a director the first year; my second year here we used to have what was called a Student Judiciary and I was Chief Justice. The Judiciary heard disciplinary matters in conjunction with administration and then we got tasked with sitting on different committees. That was a great experience. I was a peer mentor

here in the EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) program. I moved from the EOPS program to Admissions and Records and then later to doing advisement as a program advisor in the Counseling office. I kept that job as I transferred from here and went to UCLA and finished my degree in political science. I would take my classes during the morning and then I would drive back up here. From 4:00-9:00pm I would be the evening shift in the Counseling office doing program advisement at the desk. It was phenomenal. It was a great part-time opportunity.

nity to be able to support myself while I finished my degree. Then right after UCLA I qualified through an outstanding scholars program to go to work in Washington, D.C., as a policy analyst.

**Katie Hill:** I actually started out in nursing school at Mount St. Mary's, but I had several experiences that really made me aware that it's not necessarily the health care issues that drive people to the emergency room. It can be the social and systemic challenges that they're facing that really causes the emergency in the first place. So I decided that I wanted to work with at risk youth in some capacity. I thought that I was going to be a teacher, so I came back here to finish my lower division classes. I had actually been in concurrent enrollment while I was still in high school so I was familiar with the campus and had great experiences. I thought that this would be a good way to not spend tons and tons of money as I was figuring out where I wanted to go next. I was also working full time as I finished out those programs. Then I transferred to CSUN and had an incredible experience there and it ultimately led me to where I am today.

**Annie Effinger:** How has COC changed since you both attended this school?

**Christy Smith:** When you enrolled, your student ID number was literally assigned by what number you were walking in the door to register. So I was student number 1397 in the fall of 1987, and the student body was around 3,200 students. There were three main buildings on campus, plus the administration building, and it has grown tremendously since then. I got here in the era where there had been a football program, but football had ended in order for them to keep the

nursing program. There wasn't football for the whole time I was here but eventually it came back. It was a great time to be here. But I love how much it has changed...I love the University Center, the fact that AOC is here now. I love that program.

**Katie Hill:** When I started, I started in high school. I actually started swimming here on one of the youth competitive teams and then I did the concurrent enrollment. I remember waiting in line for registration. It wasn't all done online. Then once I came back here, I actually had a couple of online classes so that was a shift. But then I transferred to CSUN and when I came back for my Master's program, The University Center had just been finished and I was able to take classes here. Before that, I think when I was just finishing high school, AOC had started. So I got to see it all change and get so much bigger and it's really awesome. I also remember when the performing arts center opened and I came to a few different plays with my family.

**Christy Smith to Katie Hill** with a laugh: and now AOC has two meanings for you! **Katie Hill:** It's true....it's true.

**Annie Effinger:** California community colleges all offer the First-Year Promise which allows first-time, full-time students to attend College of the Canyons tuition-free for the first year. In the upcoming 2020 elections the democratic hopefuls are suggesting free college for all. What are your thoughts on this proposal and how can we accomplish this?

**Katie Hill:** Since those are federal candidates, I'll take that first... I think that one of the things we know is that tuition isn't always the only barrier. It's the cost of books, it's the cost of housing, it's the cost of food, and the higher

those expenses get, the harder it is for tuition. So I think there are a number of different proposals that can work for that. What I know though at the federal level, is that we need to be incentivizing states and localities to really be able to do the same kinds of things that California has done: including match programs. So that's one of the things we're looking at. I also think we need to expand the existing resources; we need to reform the student loan process, we need to be able to increase Pell grants and make it so that more people can utilize that. I think the levels aren't right anymore. They haven't kept up with the cost of college. I also think we should look at service programs for people to be able to get scholarships. You know you've got the GI bill for people who join the military, but I think if you commit to service, this is one of the programs that the Trump administration got rid of, I was very disappointed. You used to be able to serve a certain number of years with a non-profit or as a public servant in any other capacity. Then, if you paid your minimums, you could get your entire debt wiped out. I think that was a phenomenal program and it's something that should have been expanded and certainly not eliminated. We're going to try to bring it back.

**Christy Smith:** I completely agree with everything Katie said and I'm counting on her. I know she is in the fight to make sure we expand federal resources because here in California there's a lot more we'd like to do. In fact, there is a measure in our legislature this year aimed at expanding "promise" to two years. We know, we've tracked the students' success. If they can get through that first year without the challenges of having to work a full-time job, maybe only having to work a

part-time job to cover your food and housing and things like that, you're much more likely to be successful along with some of the other support services that come along with first year promise. So I'm very supportive of that. But we absolutely need reform in our student support programs from Pell grant and others at the federal level, to Calgrants here in California. Meaningful opportunities at work study and at paid internships are options for students to put some sweat equity into their own degree; which most of you already do anyway. To leave college debt free is really important.

**Annie Effinger:** Ms. Smith, your career background is in education and you know better than anyone how important it is for kids to receive a great education. Those of us who attend COC are working hard to transfer to higher institutions to continue our degrees. A number of California Universities were caught up in the recent college admissions cheating scandal. What are your thoughts on this and what are you doing at the State level to provide a level playing field for all students?

**Christy Smith:** It's unfortunate and I'm really, really glad that law enforcement caught it, especially in communities like mine where I see students who are just gutting it out to get where they need to be and don't have those advantages of a family who can write that size of a check. Nor would their families do it anyway if they could, right? We come from a pretty high moral standards community, but I don't know if there's much legislatively that can be done. I'm very glad that the system I come from, the UC system, is really taking a look at this; that those

coaches are being brought under very close scrutiny and will likely not keep their jobs. We need to set as a standard that that is unacceptable conduct, but at the same time we really need to work on expanding capacity. Currently in the California State University system we are about 39,000 seats short of being able to accommodate every child or every student who is qualified to attend the CSU. It's not quite as high as the UC system, but still there's a shortage of opportunity there, so getting the funding and resources to make sure that we're meeting the demand is really important. It's not only important because you all are driven and you want to continue on that path, but California as an economy, we're the fifth largest economy in the World, not just in our country but in the World. As we're the fifth largest economy we are coming up on a significant skills gap where we have not trained enough people in the STEM professions to compete and to sustain us through the next market transition. So we've really got to get on top of this, make sure that everybody's having the opportunities that they need or it's going to impact our economy here in very short order.

**Annie Effinger:** Ms. Hill, I know you currently serve on the House Armed Services Committee...A federal judge in Texas recently declared that an all-male military draft is unconstitutional, ruling that "the time has passed" for a debate on whether women belong in the military. What are your thoughts on women and the draft? I know personally that it scares me and physically I don't think I would be capable of fighting.

**Katie Hill:** A lot of people have this impression of the military that

it's soldiers fighting with guns, and there's so much more that is involved in military service. People are brought in and matched with their skills, and with their capabilities. For example: Medical professionals. There is a huge need for medical professionals serving in the military and there are massive shortages right now. So if any of you want to go to med school, you can get a full ride to med school if you do it through any of the military branches. Also there are so many IT jobs, and cyber security is actually one of the biggest challenges that we're facing in terms of national security. You know I think that the draft as a whole is a tough concept to really even wrap our heads around, but at the same time we've seen a major decrease in volunteer admission because of that perception. Because we think it's about going to war. What I've learned even since getting into Congress, is that our State Department funding has been completely gutted at the federal level. We have such huge shortages of ambassadors and state department career professionals especially over the last two years. The military, in many cases across the World, has been acting as our diplomats. I think we need to re-frame the way we are thinking of military service and what job it is supposed to do within our society and help communicate that better to make it possible to really operate on a truly volunteer basis. But I don't think that there's anytime, anywhere in the near future, that people would be drafted.

**Annie Effinger:** We all know homelessness is a huge problem and in particular, it is an increasing problem for students. As ASG officers, one of our major goals is to help people struggling with this issue. Ms. Hill, as Execu-

tive Director of PATH (People Assisting The Homeless) you spent a good part of your career working to help the homeless and I was wondering if you will take your interest to the national stage. What can you do to help those in California combat this issue and what advice might you have for students who are dealing with homelessness?

**Katie Hill:** I actually just met this past week with leaders from across the spectrum in terms of dealing with homelessness including our Supervisors office, Supervisor Barger. That's an issue that she is totally committed to, that the board of supervisors is committed to and I think the City of Santa Clara is actually moving more and more in that direction as well. But at the Federal level, it is about housing resources

and it's about providing the funding for mental health services and really just making housing more affordable across the board. So there are a lot of different technical proposals that we are looking to introduce that can make a difference in that regard. Maxine Waters has also introduced legislation that is much more sweeping to really address the issue of homelessness. I've sponsored that and absolutely support it, I think we're gonna have to look bit by bit at what can actually get passed and hopefully signed into law. But it is something that was the driver of how I got here. I'll never forget that. Additionally, in terms of advice for students, there are resources, though they're nowhere near enough, but there are resources here both locally and then also within the LA County system that people can and should be plugged into. I think one of the age groups that experience homelessness that isn't properly addressed and that there needs to be specialized resources around, are students. People



Photographs by Annie Effinger

who are experiencing that kind of a situation, while they're trying to pursue their education. There are different kinds of models that are more effective, so for example, depending on your income, a shallow subsidy that can help provide for housing, or for different needs like that, and making sure that students are really aware that many times they qualify for benefits that low income people are eligible for. They don't even know it, so making sure that people are really aware of all the resources that are available to them.

**Christy Smith:** We knew that it was getting to a crisis point right, and for anybody who is a student at a CSU, if you're living on campus, what you're paying in housing is far more than what you're paying in tuition and books. It's part of the overall California statewide supply and demand issue around housing. But it really was brought home to me this cycle in the legislature when we've actually got a bill in the assembly allowing students to sleep in their car



on a community college campus and be held harmless from that activity. To me, while it's preferential to them sleeping in an alleyway somewhere, still it's not acceptable for us as Americans, that's not where our value set is. So what do we have to do to ensure that everyone who is enrolled full time in college, or even part time, because that is what their work dictates, has a roof over their head?

**Annie Effinger:** Another one of ASG's values is being eco-friendly, being aware of climate change and what's going on.., As students we are all very concerned with climate change and we feel a great responsibility on us to reverse the damage we are doing to our planet. While this is a long-term problem we need short-term solutions. In California we are constantly under siege with wildfires. What are you both doing at the State and National level to help your districts with this growing issue?

**Katie Hill:** First of all, I have experienced the fire issue first-hand. The day before our primary election, there was a fire right behind my house and we had to get evacuated. We had to evacuate our horse and goats and all of our animals. We had to get them out of there and meanwhile we're having an election the next day. We're looking at both increasing resources to deal with the fires themselves, but then also the much bigger issue of climate change overall. California is leading the way in this and many of the federal proposals are actually mirroring a lot of what California is doing. So I want Christy to talk about that. But I think there has been a lot of progress in terms of people finally embracing the idea, that we have to act immediately. We cannot wait any longer. The Republicans, and I'm not trying to make this political, this is just a statement of fact. They would bring in witnesses who were climate deniers, who were trying to prove that this wasn't real. The science has completely overshadowed that and this time, for the first time, when we had an oversight hearing, the Republicans actually brought in a witness who was in favor of a carbon tax and didn't even try to pretend that climate change wasn't an issue anymore. On oversight, these are some of the most conservative Republicans that you're dealing with. So I think that that's a big improvement in the mindset around it. Getting the political will to actually do things is gonna have to involve getting money out of politics because there are far too many politicians, we've even seen this among many of our liberal colleagues, they are beholden to the big oil companies and gas companies and have a real issue in terms of trying to make the right deci-

sion as opposed to again, the one that's gonna help them get re-elected. We've passed H.R.1 at the house level which would really help to level the playing field, and make sure that regular people, who are being effected by climate change, have more of a say than these corporations and special interests. But that's held up at the Senate level. Mitch McConnell has said that he's not even bringing it to the floor, so we need activism and advocacy to continue to put this at the forefront of policies and it can't just happen in states like ours, it needs to be happening across the country.

**Christy Smith:** I completely agree with everything Katie said from the federal perspective and I know the challenge she's in as both an environmentalist and a clean-money-in-politics advocate. To try to keep having this fight, it's probably going to take her, her whole career in Congress to get us where we need to be. Fortunately, in California we were able to accelerate that pace a little bit because we had a majority of people and there actually are a few Republicans in the CA state legislature who are very pro-environmental, very climate change aware. It impacts my work in a couple of different ways. First of all, I am on the Joint Legislative Committee for emergency management; which is now tasked with this: "what is a new normal for fires?" We used to just have a fire season when it got really hot and dry, kind of late in the summer, early fall and now, year round we are at risk. Just based on drought conditions how growth has happened in both our federal forests and our state forests. Areas like where we are now, is called the urban interface, where we live in foothill communities. We love our nice, lush, natural,

surroundings but that's got a real risk when it comes to brush fires. Dealing with the challenges of all of that while trying to implement what have been California's really progressive standards on a national scale, while coming up against resistance from the federal government and from the fossil fuel industry, it's tough. You know we're there, we're working towards it, but it's hard to kind of go it alone. We are the one state in the nation that really wants to be the driver on this. So I'm going to let Katie keep doing her thing. We'll keep pushing here from California. We're going to continue to limit off shore oil drilling. We're going to work aggressively about weening ourselves off of fossil fuel and into renewable energies. But the other interesting dynamic about the money part of it is, that we're coming up on a time where there are going to be other financial forces brought to bear in the equation. And that's our insurers. All of these big insurance companies who provide people with their commercial building insurance and their home insurance are saying, we can't afford to insure anybody anymore against floods and fires. We're not going to be able to keep up with the pace of that damage. Another factor impacting it is our own national defense has said this is our single biggest national security threat: climate change. It's not terrorist activity, it's not hostile foreign governments, it's what we are doing to ourselves in not taking the lead on environmental activism. So again, huge challenge; I'm in the fight, I'm going to continue my work and help Katie wherever I can!

**Annie Effinger:** Thank you for that. On behalf of everyone in ASG, I just wanted to thank you both for all the

time you have given us today and we really appreciate all the answers you gave us for The Paw Print. Does anyone else have any questions or have anything to add?

**Caroline Trujillo:** I just want to say thank you so much. It's so nice to see people who care about these things and are taking action on them; The more we are involved in student government we are seeing how hard it is to get some of these environmental practices passed...and we are seeing how hard the fight can be, so we really appreciate it. You're making a lot of people happy, and I just want to say thank you for that.

**Christy Smith:** Thank you to all of you. I'm older than Katie, but the most phenomenal thing with your generation and that's everyone from the Margery Stoneman Douglas kids who led the "March For Our Lives" effort, to this young woman who is about to get the Nobel Peace Prize for her environmen-

tal work, to young men and women like you at this table - you are not taking no for an answer. To you, potential is limitless and your courage is fierce. So keep it up because we will keep fighting those internal challenges about the governmental barriers that keep us from making real progress. I know, and I'm sure Katie does too, we want to make sure those gates are more wide open by the time you guys are ready to step into these seats.

**Katie Hill:** Yeah, and I'll just add to that, that it is young people who are overwhelmingly in support of these policies that you are talking about. There's a total generational divide on it and so if we want to change these things, especially because it impacts us in a way that previous generations didn't have to deal with, including student debt, including the environmental challenges and all of these different things, is that we need to get young people to vote. And if they do, then

we're able to completely shift the dynamics around. We're not talking about this being just California young people, we're talking about overwhelmingly people across the country are ready for these kinds of more progressive policies. But only if we show up to vote. There is no giving up. The only way we can change things is by getting a new generation, and I don't mean new generation in terms of just age, but a new wave of politicians who are not accountable to these special interests and who are committed to really taking on those tough fights. We've got to get them in. It's tough to get rid of incumbents and to overcome that big money that we are dealing with in politics, but young people are the drivers who can make that happen. I'm really, really excited that you guys are involved in this way, and I think it's incredible. We want to keep working with you. Whoever you vote for, just show up and vote!

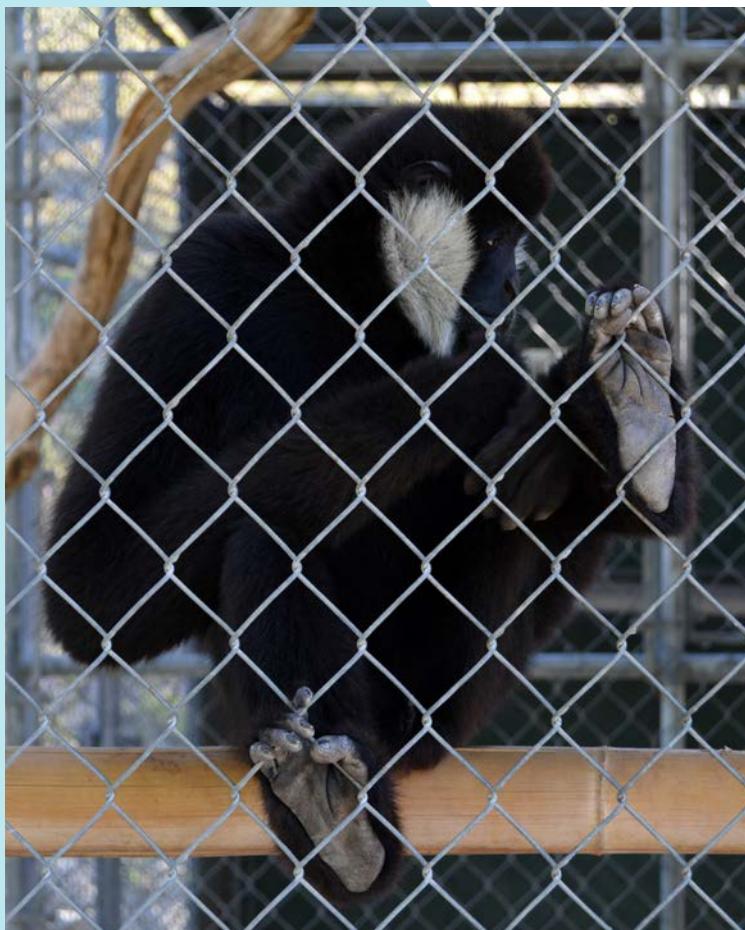


Photograph by Annie Effinger

# SEARCHING FOR FUN?

## **GIBBON CONSERVATION CENTER**

Want to go visit and help support amazing animals in need? Here is a fun and educational activity that everyone will enjoy. The Gibbon Conservation center, located on Esguerra Road in Santa Clarita, is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon. The entrance fee that goes to supporting the amazing gibbons is \$15 for adults and \$12 for students with an ID card. A tour is given at around 10:00 am, and you may even be lucky enough to hear the gibbons sing! So what is a gibbon? Gibbons are endangered, small, arboreal apes and are known as the “songbirds” of the primate family. The conservation center currently houses 5 different species of gibbons, including the Northern White Cheeked Gibbon and the Pileated Gibbon. There are 39 gibbons as of right now and some expected little ones. If you are curious to meet these amazing animals, here are some things to keep in mind: 1. Be respectful. The gibbon center is a fun learning environment for people to visit, but remember it is the home to these gibbons. 2. No feeding, touching or interacting with the gibbons, as they are wild animals. 3. Attend when healthy, this is an effort to keep the animals safe from any illnesses that can be transmitted from humans to gibbons, as we are biologically similar. Aside from that, go learn something new!



Photographs by Annie Effinger



Image from annenbergphotospace.com



## **ANTELOPE VALLEY POPPY RESERVE**

Looking for a way to get your head out of the books and spend a relaxing day in nature? Now is the time to trek out to the Antelope Valley and enjoy the billions of orange poppies that are blooming in the hills and trails of the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve. Having received enough water from winter rains, the hills 15 miles west of Lancaster have come alive and should continue with new blooms through May. This 1800 acre state park which opened in 1982, is located off the 14 Freeway and includes 7 miles of trails that wind gently through the poppy fields. The park is open daily 7:00AM-7:00PM and there is a \$10 parking fee if you park in the lot. However there is plenty of parking along the roads leading into the reserve and you can hike in. Be aware that dogs are not allowed in the poppy reserve. Happy hiking and don't squish any of the beautiful poppies.

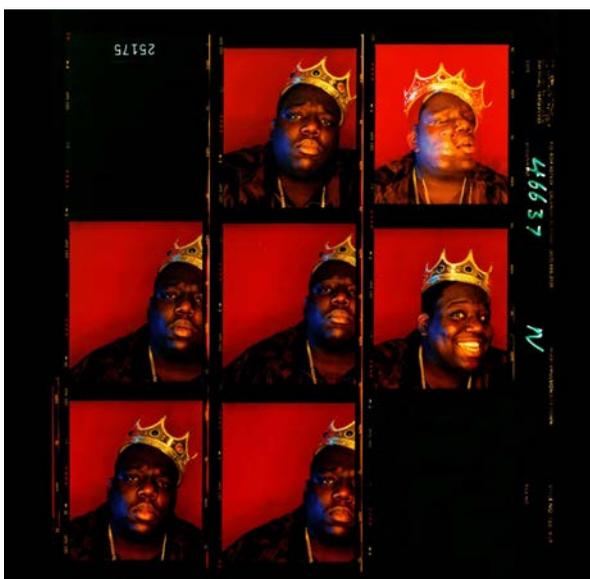


Image from annenbergphotospace.com  
Photo by: Barron Caliborne

## **ANNENBERG SPACE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**

The Annenberg Space For Photography is a great place to view amazing and interesting photographs. Their exhibits range from the Photo Ark by Joel Sartore, to the upcoming exhibit, Contact High: A Visual History of Hip-Hop. The Annenberg opened in 2009 and has had over half a million visitors. They have featured award winning exhibitions from notable photographers over the years. The exhibits each have their own powerful themes, and change every three to six months. The Annenberg Space For Photography hopes to share new perspectives and teach visitors about the past. The purpose is to engage viewers and connect people to the world through the art of photography. The photo space provides a unique experience for every visitor to view the world through the artist lens. Admissions to the exhibits and public programming is always free. Located in Century City, the Annenberg is open from Wednesdays-Sundays from 11:00am to 6:00pm and parking is validated.



## **BIOLOGY**

Professor Chari, the lead faculty of Organismal and Environmental biology at COC, defines biology as the study of certain types of life, but not all, such as viruses. She said that there are two types of subclasses in biology, 1. Molecular, which lends itself to jobs such as doctors, dentists, and pharmacists, and 2. Organismal, which lends itself more to researching answers to questions about the environment. Professor Chari is interested in the study of organisms and their behavior, biodiversity, and ecosystem stability. She also noted that she is interested in studying modern day humans, who are now living for the first time “without a relationship to the environment.” Professor Chari went on to say that, “we are now interacting more and more with nonliving things.” When asked to compare biology with other sciences, Professor Chari said that biology is grounded in chemistry, and chemistry is grounded in physics. So one leads to another, and this, she said with a smile, is why “biology is a gateway science.”

COC student, Meghan Elric, who is majoring in biology, said what draws her to biology is that she is able to “look at parts of the world that get overlooked.” Elric’s dream job in the field of biology is to collect and compile data in the field, for the government, in order to help the earth. Elric stated that she has gained a “global perspective” by studying biology and that she sees the environment as it is, not who owns it. Even parking lots, she said, are a part of the environment. Elric compares biology to other sciences by describing it as more “visceral,” and that “you can go into a zoo and point at an animal and say ‘that is biology.’” Elric elaborated on the beauty of biology, saying that once the general framework is understood, biology allows people to understand our surroundings, and “place our perspective within it.” From what these two said, biology offers a holistic perspective of life.

## **THE ARTS**

Yes, yes, we all know those typical stereotypes about art majors just watching anime and drawing pretty pictures all day, but what do you really know about our arts programs? The arts at COC consists of a variety of courses, more than just drawing: ranging from fine arts, to design, to entertainment arts— all offering students classes to refine their skills and sharpen their creativity. Students of any major can take courses in animation, web design, architecture, fashion design, theater and music, no matter their proficiency.

The current Chair of the Art Department, Michael McCaffrey, explains, “I love teaching art because I believe it is a rare subject area where lots of different people with varying abilities and experiences can all thrive and achieve meaningful things regardless of aptitude.” Within many of his classes, from figure drawing to art history, there is a diverse range of students involved, many of whom are not art majors at all. “Art is a subject that is central to all other learning, as reflected by the fact that many of our courses are CSU and UC transferable and fulfill the arts elective requirement for transfer for every other major discipline,” He adds. Students of any kind can take advantage of the many academic and mental benefits that come with learning about art.

“There are many unique things about COC’s art program, but I would point out the dedication and professional achievements of the 14 faculty that make up this department,” McCaffrey says, “all are practicing artists in their own right, and have national and often international exhibition recognition.” Himself an experienced artist and Museum Technician, there is a unique quality that he brings to all of his classes. McCaffrey encourages students to engage with their art and gain new perspectives by learning from others. When asked about his favorite class to teach, McCaffrey replies, “Hard to pick just one, but if I had to, then it would be Art 115, ‘Modern Art History.’ It is a class that confirms that modern art is a radical form whose development and entire purpose gets crystallized, analyzed and finalized in a few quick decades at the onset of the 20th Century. Pretty powerful stuff to be so close to the conclusion of an actual history and to then witness its next incarnation develop in post-modern times.”

For a more detailed look into the arts and all the programs offered here at COC, check out: <http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/FAPADiv/Pages/default.aspx>

# THE QUESTION OF...

BY NATHAN RIVAS



Photograph by Annie Effinger

What should the role of military recruiters be on the COC campus? To answer this question, I asked professors and veterans what they thought were the relevant considerations on the issue. Those that I interviewed include Professor Llaguno, who has an M.A. in philosophy, Professor Blakey, who has a Ph.D. in philosophy, Matt Stys, who is a veteran that works with Veterans for Peace, and one professor who asked to be interviewed anonymously.

The first person that I interviewed was Professor Llaguno, who started with

a clarification. He said that there are "two different questions. What we think about the military, and whether we should allow them the right to speak." Professor Llaguno framed the issue around free speech, and said that the only time that free speech should be restricted is when it will cause imminent harm. Military recruiting causes no imminent harm, so it follows that they should be allowed to speak on campus. However, Professor Llaguno added that it is the job of teachers to educate students on the reality of the military, so

they are not misled by the salespersonship of military recruiters. I wanted to see if Professor Llaguno would be consistent on his principle of free speech, so I asked if ISIS should be allowed to recruit on campus, if they did not pose imminent harm. While the group ISIS and the U.S. military are not morally equivalent, they both cause harm to the innocent. Professor Llaguno remained consistent, and stressed the importance of drawing a hard line on free speech, and allow those that are not causing imminent harm to speak regardless of

# MILITARY RECRUITMENT ON CAMPUS

who they are. Professor Blakey agreed with the conclusion of Professor Llaguno's position, and also bit the bullet on ISIS, saying "you need to let them speak. Recruitment is a form of speech." Professor Blakey grounds his position on the importance of protecting free speech, with the understanding that there is no moral equivalence between ISIS and the U.S. military.

The next person that I interviewed was Matt Stys, who actively participates in counter recruitment, which is the practice of educating students about aspects of the military that recruiters are not forthright about. Specifically, Stys talks to kids whose parents want them to reconsider joining the military. I asked Stys about what he tells these kids. Stys said that collecting benefits from the military that are promised, such as college tuition and healthcare is "fighting the system." Stys went on to say that there are other dangers of joining the military, such as being maimed, as he was, along with being emotionally damaged from "immoral actions that I wouldn't want done to my family." Stys also said that he was "stop loss" in 2008. Stop loss is the practice of involuntarily extending the service of soldiers. While everything that Stys told me is important to consider on the topic of military recruitment, Stys said that he agrees with Professor Llaguno that

military recruiters should be allowed the right to speak. Matt Stys counters the military's free speech with his own speech, which adds to the discourse, instead of negating it.

The last professor that I interviewed asked to remain anonymous. Firstly, the professor said that the history of wars and the military industrial complex, need to be considered. The military industrial complex is the relationship between arms manufacturers, people in the defense department, and politicians who all benefit or profit from military spending and war, and promote war to these ends. The wars that the U.S. has fought in, the Professor argues, are fought for the military industrial complex, i.e. for profit, not for the betterment of the U.S. population. With this background information about the military, I asked what their position is on Professor Llaguno's position of protecting free speech. The professor had a mixed response. On one hand they thought that the loss of life that follows from the U.S. military would provide grounds for restricting their free speech. Indeed, the the U.S. military has a history of illegal invasions and indiscriminately bombing highly populated civilian areas. However, as the conversation progressed, they eventually agreed with Professor Llaguno's initial position. I asked whether ISIS

should be allowed to speak as well, and the professor noted how it is socially acceptable to restrict ISIS's free speech, but not the U.S. military's. The professor changed their position another time, and said that free speech needs to be looked at again, but felt conflicted because they wanted to reserve the right to protest as a form of free speech. This illustrates how complex the issue is and how difficult it is to remain truly consistent on the issue of free speech.

The common belief of those that I interviewed was that free speech is central to the issue of military recruiting, and free speech should only be restricted when it is about to cause harm. Most of those that I interviewed bit the bullet, and granted that in order to remain consistent on this principle, ISIS would also need to be granted the same right to free speech, and be allowed to recruit on campus, so long that they cause no imminent harm. Another common trend was that those who I interviewed wanted a dialogue about the role of military recruiters on campus. So what is the role of military recruiting on campus? Let's decide together.



The Communication Studies Club, is a club for all majors. The club meets every Tuesday in room 129 located in the Student Center. During my time as the Associated Student Government's Director of Clubs and Organizations, I became a member of the Communication Studies Club while I was taking a communication studies course with the club's advisor Victoria Leonard. I began learning more about the club and learning about Victoria's story and developed a friendship with both her and the club's former president Adam Pelaez. Half-way through the 2018 spring semester I figured that as the Director of Clubs and Organizations. I should start checking out some of the clubs that I have been working with.

One of the things I found very interesting about the Communication Studies Club was the diversity of the club. I had recently interviewed Victoria about the club and asked if there was one word that she could use to describe the club, "The one word I would use, said Victoria, is resilient because regardless of any slumps we have had, we always bounce back." I asked her how she came to be involved with The Communication Studies Club and how she came to be the club's advisor. Victoria said, "I had wanted to see a club at COC since I started there, part time in 1989! I had been a student at CSUN, who in 1979, started the "Student Speech Communication Association." This was also based on the name of

the department back then and had the same mission and vision as COMS Club. At CSUN, it started because of a Small Group Communications Course semester length project. When I began teaching Small Group Communication about nine years ago, a group of students spoke to me about wanting to start the same club. I had used this as an example, but this group wanted to run with it, and run with it they did. The fact that students with any major can join and not have to be a communication studies major I would say is a bonus to anyone wanting to join the club. Although when you think about it, every major, field or career requires communication skills. Before I joined the club, I started talking with some of

# COMMUNICATION STUDIES CLUB

A Club For All Majors!

BY CHASE LONGAN



the students that were part of the club to get a sense of what the culture and the dynamics were. I also asked about events and accomplishments that the club had participated in. One event that caught my attention was their "Wall of Gratitude". What peaked my interest about the event was the fact that it provided students the opportunity to post to the wall what they are thankful for versus complaining about things. This sounded intriguing and very amazing to me. In fact, the event was such a cool idea, that I brought it to ASG's then Vice President of the Interclub Council, John Perkins, and told him that ASG should do its own version of the gratitude wall. He thought the idea was so cool that he even agreed that ASG should do it.

One of the things that I like about the Communication Studies Club is the fact that members can choose topics during the meetings and have discussions on a particular topic. An example of a topic for discussion would be the usage and re-appropriation of words. Another example is whether students taking online courses should be monitored when doing an assignment or taking a test online. One of the perks of being a member when you join the Communication Studies Club is that you get some cool stuff such as the club's t-shirt with the club logo on it and the club's water bottles. But the best perk of all is that you get to explore the field of communication studies regardless if you're a communication studies major or not.

If you're a new student at College of the Canyons I highly recommend that you join a club in your first year including this club, you never know what you might learn. Joining a club such as the Communication Studies Club gives you a different perspective on campus life and college in general. Clubs might even lead you to a field or a study that you like. Clubs also can help build long term friendships or relationships on campus. So, the next time you are looking for a club on campus to join, you should check out the Communication Studies Club.

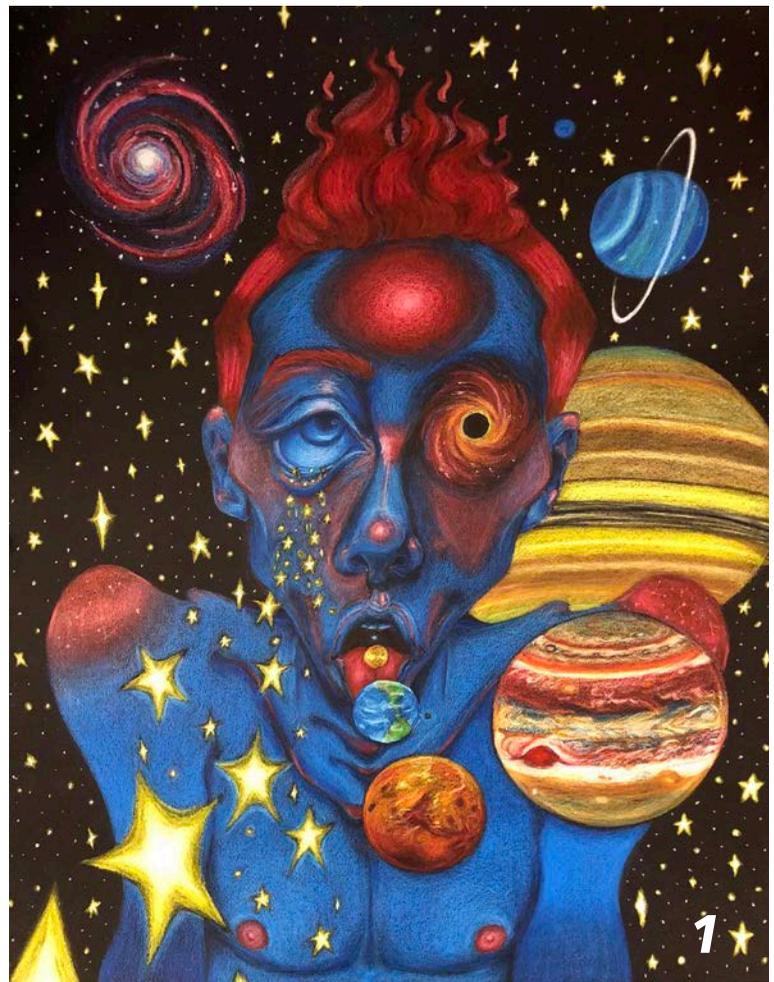
# ARTIST

TAYLOR DE LA CERDA

1. This is my most recent drawing using prismacolor pencils. My idea was to make a surrealism drawing involving the birth of the universe. I am really interested in mythology and how the universe was created, according to other religions and myths. That is what inspired me to create my own weird take on how everything was created.

2. This was created using oil pastels and prismacolor pencils. Recently I've been experimenting with color and trying to figure out my style, that is what inspired me to make this piece. I like to exaggerate features and bring in elements of surrealism.

3. This is a portrait of the actress, Aubrey Plaza. It is one of my favorite pieces because I got to experiment with oil pastels, I really developed my artistic style, and because of the way the red highlights her hair, it really compliments the blue background.



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