A Message from Superintendent/President Shannon

Over the last several months, Chaffey College has worked to highlight alumni stories to show potential students that reaching for their academic goals is possible. Alumni are some of our greatest resources because they are examples of what can be achieved here at Chaffey College.

They can tell us firsthand the value of their education. When we talk with alumni they consistently tell us how Chaffey College provided them with affordable, high-quality education. Since our founding in 1883, student access has been our focus, and we remain committed to accepting 100 percent of students that apply. At Chaffey College, when a student succeeds, we believe we all do.

However, value is not just about dollars and cents. As commencement season approaches and we anticipate graduating the largest class in our history, it is not difficult to connect how what we offer to students impacts their ability to succeed. Our small class sizes, flexible schedules and dedicated faculty and staff make for a campus culture that results in our students feeling valued. And we know that when a student feels valued and connected to a college, they tend to stay.

Truly, our alumni are our greatest storytellers, and we will continue to highlight them. They work in every field and industry imaginable and many live in the communities we serve, which impacts our local and state economy as well. I like to say, “Once a Panther, always a Panther” and with more than 400,000 alumni worldwide – our reach is immeasurable.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Shannon, Ph.D.

Mary Jane Ross Named Faculty Lecturer of the Year

Instructional Specialist Mary Jane Ross presented the 2017 Faculty Lecture program entitled, “The Ghost in the Closet.” In it, Ross discussed her two decades as a ghost writer of national bestseller and award winning books.

Ross’ career as a ghost writer coincided with her arrival at Chaffey College in 2000. Her credited and uncredited works include celebrity memoirs, as well as the story of the first woman graduate of the oldest military academy in the United States. Ross has worked with numerous relatives of notorious criminals and celebrities and was awarded the NAACP Image Award for “Outstanding Literary Work, Biography or Autobiography” in 2011 for her work on You Don’t Know Me with Ray Charles Jr.

Each spring, full-time faculty nominate and vote for a colleague to be selected for the Faculty Lecturer honor. The program dates back to the late 1960s and has featured lecturers from all academic areas.
Chaffey College will celebrate its 100th commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 18. Held this year for the first time off campus at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario, the Class of 2017 is anticipated to be the largest in Chaffey College history.

The commencement ceremony will feature guest speaker Richard Montañez, creator of Flamin’ Hot Cheetos. He will share his rags-to-riches story with graduates of how it was when he was working as a janitor at the Frito-Lay Rancho Cucamonga plant that he had the idea to add chili powder to Cheetos, changing the brand forever.

Montañez decided to bring his idea to life by sharing it with the president of Frito-Lay. His idea of Flamin’ Hot Cheetos became Frito-Lay’s top-selling product. Today, Montañez is an executive of the company, but remains closely connected to his community and humble beginnings. He is a published author of the book, *A Boy, a Burrito and a Cookie*, which tells the story of his life’s journey. He also started a foundation called Onelite, which provides shoes for children going back to school and feeds thousands of local families each year.

“Richard Montañez is an inspiring individual,” said Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Eric Bishop. “We believe he will resonate with our graduates because his story is one of hope and perseverance. One good idea can change your life and Richard is proof of that. We want our students to hear his story, and we hope it amplifies their inner courage to live out their own hopes and dreams.”

### Don’t Judge a Book by its Cover: Human Library Tells Stories

The Chaffey College Library recently hosted its 3rd Annual Human Library event. The Human Library is an interdisciplinary activity that allows participants to “check out a human book”. A reader can check out a human book and have a conversation with them for 20 minutes. The conversation focuses on whatever the human book shares as part of his/her story.

The Human Library concept is designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue.

This year’s Library focus was equity and diversity and featured books on sexuality, poverty, incarceration, success, and hope. The goal was for participants to challenge stereotypes of ethnicity, religion, sexuality, occupation, health/disability, lifestyle and political conviction.

Dr. Eric Bishop, Vice President of Student Services, presented the kickoff sharing his personal story entitled *From Welfare to the VP: Not Everyone is Born with Bootstraps*, and reminded the audience not to judge a book (or human book) by its cover. This year’s human books included presentations by Chaffey College faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and current students.

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Chaffey College Leader Named For Aspen Presidential Fellowship

Associate Superintendent of Instruction and Institutional Effectiveness Meridith Randall has been awarded the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence, a highly selective leadership program aimed at developing a new cadre of outstanding leaders capable of transforming student success at community colleges across the country. The Aspen Institute, an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C., announced that Randall will join the 2017-2018 class of Aspen Presidential Fellows.

“Meridith has brought a tremendous amount of experience to Chaffey College and this recognition is a reflection of that,” said Superintendent/President Dr. Henry Shannon. “She is a visionary leader who aims to put students first. We are all very proud of her being named an Aspen Presidential Fellow.”

Randall and the 39 other Aspen Presidential Fellows will embark on a year-long fellowship beginning in July 2017. Delivered in collaboration with the Stanford Educational Leadership Initiative and top community college leaders, the program focuses on a new vision of leadership and aims to guide new and aspiring community college presidents to dramatically change student outcomes in four areas: learning, completion while in community college and of bachelor’s degrees after transfer, employment and earnings after graduation, and equitable access and success for underrepresented minority and low-income students.

Randall was selected through a rigorous process that considered her abilities to take strategic risks, lead strong teams and cultivate partnerships, and focus on results-oriented improvements in student success and access.

The 2017-2018 Aspen Presidential Fellows hail from 24 states and 38 community colleges of varying sizes. For more information, visit: http://as.pn/1ky.

Event Helps Students ‘Dress for Success’

The Chaffey College Career Center hosted its 7th Annual Dress for Success event on April 20. Students were invited to “shop” from a wide selection of professional clothing and accessories donated by faculty, staff, and community members.

“This event gives students the opportunity to acquire clothing appropriate for a job interview or worn in a professional setting,” said Career Counselor Wendy Whitney. “The impact we make on students through this event can be seen immediately in the gratitude the students express. Many have never owned professional clothing and now they are ready to go out into the community to begin their careers.”

The event serves hundreds of students annually, with professionals on-site to give clothing tips including laundering, fit, and accessorizing for the work place. “It’s a huge boost to the student’s self-esteem, just to know that they are dressed to impress,” said Career Counselor Kristen Burleson.

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“The Human Library is powerful. It allows the ‘reader’ to challenge themselves and their preconceptions about people who are different from them,” commented Annette Young, librarian and coordinator of the annual event. “After reading one of the Human Books, a student shared that his life is forever changed, because of the Human Book he talked to. That’s what the Human Library can do.”

For more information on the Human Library project including information on past books, please visit humanlibrary.org
Mission Statement

Chaffey College inspires hope and success by improving lives and our community in a dynamic, supportive, and engaging environment of educational excellence where our diverse students learn and benefit from foundation, career, and transfer programs.

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The Breeze Visits New York

In March, eight Chaffey College journalism students accompanied their faculty advisor, Michelle Dowd, to the College Media Association’s Spring Convention in New York City. Student journalists participated in workshops, networked with professional journalists and had private tours of major news organizations.

Car Club Hosts Annual Show for Scholarships

The Chaffey College Car Club hosted its Ninth Annual Car, Truck, and Motorcycle Show Sunday, April 9 on the Rancho Cucamonga Campus with more than 200 cars on display.

The event, always a community favorite, featured classic and newer vehicles, the flame throwing “Wild Thang,” and a vintage Snap-on Tools van. Sam Contino, the founder of the automotive program at the college, was on-hand to answer questions about the history of the program.

“The show was phenomenal,” said Sherm Taylor, automotive technology professor and Car Club advisor. “We had great weather, great people and great cars!” Funds raised at the event will be used for student scholarships.