



SPRING 2015



A message from the editor

Mainline magazine prides itself on a long history of publishing excellent student content — a longstanding tradition since the first issue in 1995. Now, 20 years later, *Mainline* is still delivering on its original promise of highlighting the best and brightest City College has to offer, from programs like cosmetology and aeronautics, to student success stories, and features about the journeys of campus leaders and standouts.

The one constant throughout my four years — beginning as a staff writer for the *Express* in 2011 — as a student in the City College Journalism Department is the continual reminder of how many truly amazing people step foot on this campus. During my time here I've been able to share experiences with many of these inspiring men and women. The best part is that I've been able to share their stories with the campus and community.

When it comes to talented, successful people, the City College Journalism Department is no exception. I've met lifelong friends, worked with several award-winning journalists and collaborated with men and women who've jumped straight from these very classrooms right into careers at local broadcast news stations, radio broadcasts and local magazines.

This *Mainline* magazine is the last publication I will work on at City College. No matter where my life takes me, as I finish up my general education and transfer to Sacramento State next spring, the college publications I've worked on will forever be some of my most valuable accomplishments because they've given me the tools to go out and reach my goals.

Though it took hard work, dedication and perseverance to get to where I am, I owe a lot of my success to the wonderful group of professors who advise the student publications.

As a former editor in chief of the *Express* and someone who has held just about every job on the newspaper, *Mainline* stands out the most for me because it's an outlet for in-depth stories that traverse the entire college experience. I am proud of the students who dedicated countless hours this semester to produce the stories and photos in this spring edition of *Mainline*.

We appreciate you taking time out of your busy schedule to read our magazine. As you flip through the following pages, we hope you enjoy our articles as much as we've enjoyed putting them together.

Daniel Wilson, Editor in Chief

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Group leader Byron Colborn (blue shirt), Aaron Thurman, Reagan Branch, Joby Morrow and Brother Perry are just some of the members of the Elements Brass Band, a 13-piece band based in Sacramento.



ELEMENTS OF NEW ORLEANS

Story by Rosaura de la Cruz

SACRAMENTO ELEMENT BRASS BAND BRINGS SECOND LINE JAZZ TO MIDTOWN

The Shady Lady on R and 14th streets in downtown Sacramento was filled with chaos and a rowdy crowd one Saturday night in February.

Standing by the entrance were eight friends from colleges throughout the Los Rios Community College District who couldn't take their eyes off the clock. They quickly started lifting heavy instruments and strapping them on their bodies, as most of the popular Midtown saloon's patrons kept a close eye on the group.

The leader of the pack, Byron Colborn, looked over at his men, nodding slightly. With a deep breath he pressed his lips to his saxophone and made a beautiful, almost jaw-dropping sound.

Heads turned as the sound rang out again from Colborn's sax. This time another note came from a man standing behind him. It was the somber sound of a small trombone. It was followed by the striking and powerful boom of a drum, a

roar so mighty it could almost be felt as a rattle in the brain.

Next, the tone of a trumpet flowed smoothly through the room as the band broke into second line jazz, a style of traditional jazz music that has been called the quintessential New Orleans art form. On cue, all eight members of the Element Brass Band started to march in place, emphasizing the rhythm, then began marching toward the door.

"Are they leaving?" shouted a woman smoking a cigarette on the saloon's patio.

The beautiful and strange noises started to disappear as the band rounded the corner of the neighborhood.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In addition to Colborn, the night's talent consisted of fellow saxophonist Reagan

Branch, Benwar Shepard on sousaphone, Anthony Coleman on trumpet, Courtney Miller on drums, Joby Marrow and Brother Perry on trombone, and Dan Smith as the emcee.

The idea for the second line jazz band was born when Sacramento City College and American River College student Ryan Robertson traveled to New Orleans with his trumpet in 2010.

It was there that he fell in love with the music and rich culture of the blues in the soul-based city. When he returned to Sacramento in 2011, Robertson brought the music and culture home with him and started to assemble his version of a second line band, a long-standing New Orleans tradition, with brass band parades representing freedom, history and the celebration of life.

According to jazz historians, the "main line" or "first line" is the main section of the parade. Those who follow

the band to enjoy the music are called the “second line,” sometimes twirling a parasol or handkerchief in the air, Robertson quickly rallied Sacramento’s best and aspiring musicians from around the Los Rios district and California State University, Sacramento. Once he had the best of the best, he taught them the styles and rhythm of New Orleans. Shortly after assembling this band, Robertson returned to New Orleans, leaving his position in Sacramento to fellow saxophonist Colborn.

“In New Orleans, when we play, people don’t walk up the streets, they dance up! Full families, all together, just dancing, and it’s because they feel it [the music]. It’s the only place in the world where you see anything like that.”

Anthony Coleman
Trumpet Player

Since then Colborn has happily carried on the title as bandleader and recruited a group of 13 talented jazz musicians who share a love of the musical culture and styles of New Orleans. The band’s hard work paid off recently when the band took home the 2015 Sammies Award for Best Jazz Band in late March. The band hopes to continue to capture an audience and the support of Sacramento music lovers by staying true to the roots and rhythms of New Orleans-style music.

“One of the biggest compliments we get is when people from New Orleans tell us that we sound like home,” said Colborn. “It’s because our music speaks to people and makes them happy and makes them want to get up and dance. Mardi Gras is spanning all over the world. Everyone wants a taste of this huge party, and we want to bring that to Sacramento.”

PLAYING FOR MORE

Back inside, the Shady Lady was particularly busy for a Saturday night. Patrons took over tables or grabbed spots at the bar.

The saloon is famous for its unique cocktails. Just as the crowd started settling in, drinks in hand, the faint melodies of jazz started to grow stronger and stronger. Conversations were put on pause as the music grew louder. The bar fell almost completely silent. Sounds of drums, trombones and clapping filled the air as the band made its way back to the bar.

The doors burst open.

“They’re back!” shouted a man sitting at the bar as he raised his drink to the band.

As the members of the Element Brass Band walked in and made their way to the stage, still playing and marching to the beat, crowds of people behind them entered the small venue. The saloon suddenly became packed as people shuffled in to listen.

One man put out his hand to his date, and they started dancing to the soulful bass line. More and more people joined in, cheering and applauding. Even the security guard at the door was swaying side-to-side, and the bartenders danced as they served drinks.

“Who are these guys?” shouted a woman from the bar as she started dancing with her drink still in one hand.

“That’s The Element Brass Band, baby” shouted emcee Dan Smith.

According to members of the band, the style of music played by the Element Brass Band isn’t just popular in saloons and clubs throughout New Orleans. It’s a staple of Mardi Gras, which is French for “Fat Tuesday” and takes place just before Lent begins each year. Every year, thousands of people fly, drive or take train rides to the world’s biggest party of the year. Band member Coleman, who recently came back from New Orleans Mardi Gras 2015, had four words to describe it.

“It was fucking amazing!” said Coleman.



Reagan Branch plays the tenor saxophone in the Element Brass Band.

Though the full 13-member band hasn't made it to New Orleans, it has made it as far as Oakland and San Francisco as headline openers for a couple of bands, including the local hip-hop group Blackalicious.

Since the brass band traveled almost 100 miles to get to the Bay area, the band members figured they'd have some fun around the streets by busking.

"Busking is the white version of hustling," explained Coleman of the mostly African-American band.

"Hustle" is the word Coleman uses to describe bandmate Dan Smith, who accommodates to the Brass Band as the emcee and band promoter. Coleman explained how Smith works his magic around the audience. His methods work and draws in

large crowds. The band always has a full house.

"Once I joined this band, my mind was cauliflowered," said Smith. "I was straight-up hip-hop and reggae, and now I truly appreciate music. I found my roots."

Smith said the band doesn't just play in saloons and at big concerts.

"We've done funerals, and they're sad, but we want to embrace life and the life that that person gave," said Smith. Smith and Shepard like to incorporate hip-hop influences into the second line music by adding samples from some of their favorite songs and rappers.

"It's all embedded in the same thing," said Shepard. "Jazz, hip-hop and gospel influences us all."

Though second line is more of a pa-

rade and party type of music, it does carry deeper roots and history.

"Second line came from marching band and church," said Morrow. "We are playing for a communal reservation, so it's pretty important and it shows in the way we play, recreating the gospel shout-outs. And that's where it starts, with family and church, sitting, clapping and feeling it."

Shepard explains the jazz inspired-influences in Sacramento as uplifting and joyous.

"All the top musicians all came from church, and it's because we're playing for a higher power and a higher purpose," said Coleman. "That's what we're doing out here — playing for more."



Joby Morrow plays trombone in the Element Brass Band.

A FUTURE OF SUCCESS

The Element Brass Band has worked hard toward their goals and accomplishments. After being nominated for four Sammys Awards in the past, they were pleased to take one home this year.

“It feels good to be recognized for the hard work that everyone in the band has been putting in,” said Colborn. “My hope is that we can use recognition as motivation to continue to reach for our goals.”

“One of the biggest compliments we get is when people from New Orleans tell us that we sound like home.”

Byron Colborn
Saxophone Player

The musicians also hope to go on tour as they strive to record music for a new album. Before they leave, they will be opening May 29 for the Blackalicious Concert in the Park.

“We are very excited for our performance at Concerts in the Park,” said Colborn. “Along with our performance at the Fillmore in San Francisco last year, this will be one of the biggest audiences we have performed for.”

As the Shady Lady show came to an end and the band got to finally sit down and rest, they again explained why they play and why they’ll never give up. They’re not in it for the money or fame; they play for fun and to bring joy to people who want to have a good time and get up and dance or cheer.

“Our music makes you happy and makes you want to dance — it’s spiritual!” said Shepard. “In New Orleans, when we play, people don’t walk up the streets, they dance up! Full families, all together, just dancing, and it’s because they feel it [the music]. It’s the only place in the world where you see anything like that.”

Coleman, sitting next to Shepard, agreed.

“Exactly!” said Coleman. “Element Brass Band is the only band in Sacramento that’s capable of bringing that here and capable of bringing everyone together. [We’re] making people dance and making sure they have a real good time.” ■



Benwar Shepard, sousaphone player, hits the low notes.



Matt Gentry keeps the beat on bass drum for the Element Brass Band.



Reagan Branch and Joby Morrow blow a second line jazz tune with the Element Brass Band.

Don't let the boobs fool you —

by Kay Barnes



Kay Barnes / Photo by Emma Foley

“Every good girl likes Barbies and pink glitter.”

I grew up thinking that this was an indisputable law. However, the first time I noticed something was wrong with me, I was 12. I quickly buried my awareness and carried on like the good girl I was supposed to be. I could have started an army with the number of Barbies I owned. However, nothing could convince me that glitter, the color pink or otherwise, was a good thing.

My grandmother would always request — demand, really — “Wear that pink skirt. It makes you look so pretty.” I became so fed up with that skirt, so I burned it. That was the year I stumbled upon the people. I was 15 and realized they were so different from everyone else.

I was in a restaurant with my mother and sister when a party of three walked in. The two men were obviously a couple, so my mother was already predisposed to giving them ugly looks.

Some days I trudge home,
head down toward the chest
I've grown to despise, and
can do nothing more than cry
into my pillow.

However, it was the woman who earned my mother's most ferocious glare, and my ardent respect. She was dressed in a yellow sundress that would have shown

off the figure of any woman, yet this woman wasn't like other women. This woman had broad shoulders, large hands, narrow hips, and no chest to speak of. I thought she looked wonderful.

My mother, however, said to me as we paid our bill, “I'm glad we finished before those men sat next to us. Did you see the fag in the dress?”

My family and friends always called them “freaks” or “unholy abominations,” depending on how religious they were feeling that day. Yet she seemed so confident in who she was that she risked identifying herself as the opposite gender. I finally realized that there were others like me, that I wasn't alone.

My father had never been a part of my life, but even he asked, “Why don't you have a boyfriend?” I'd had boyfriends before. None was serious, and they didn't last long. I knew they wouldn't get it if I told them, and lying is never good in a relationship. However, at 17 I could finally admit the truth to myself, when I could finally look myself in the eye in the mirror.

My oldest sister took me shopping once. While she was dragging me along from store to store, she asked, “Why don't you ever wear dresses any more?” I knew if I told her, she'd laugh.

At 18, I told my cat. He just blinked, so I gave him a can of tuna. A lot can be said about the world when a cat accepts a person more easily than other people do.

“Okay, so if you're not a lesbian, you like guys, right?” my mother said. I thought she was starting to understand. Then she said, “Then that means you're straight.” She ignored me for the rest of the day.

Nineteen saw me in Las Vegas helping my sister move. I was sitting in a restaurant there when a total stranger recognized me for the man I was inside. It's always when I'm with my mother that I encounter transgender people or strangers who are accepting of other lifestyles.

My mother and I were at one of the restaurants in the Stratosphere hotel

having dinner. A lone man was seated next to us, and we ate our meals in mutual disinterest. He finished first as my mother and I paused to talk every so often. As he got up, he said, "I hope you and your son have a lovely time here in Vegas."

My mother ignored his comment, but I don't think I've ever felt happier than at that moment. He accepted me without any hesitation, better than my mother did. I had been trying to tell her for a while, but she played off all my hints as if this was just a phase I was going through. I almost wished it were.

I was sitting in a restaurant when a total stranger recognized me for the man I was inside.

I turned 21 and finally told my best friend. It took me over an hour to force out the words, "I am transgender." She said, "I already call you dude," then she let me cry twice as long while she hugged me. She then threw a pillow at me after I told her I was worried she'd hate me. She was only mad that it took me so many years to tell her: "Don't you ever keep something like this from me again."

"But you're my baby girl!" my mother said after I told her. I was 23. I was

finally able to corner my mother and tried to set her straight. She cried. She said she was losing one of her daughters. She blamed herself that I turned out wrong. I never brought it up again after that, and now she pretends I never told her.

"What name do you prefer?" None of my family has ever asked me this. At 24, I am still Kayla to them. I wonder if they think that I'll become the person they want me to be. For now, I go by Kay until I can have my name legally changed to Luke, though I'm not used to being referred to that way, so it might take a few tries before I realize I'm being addressed.

"So what now?" I ask myself. I'm 26. I'm a student. I work. I have bills and student loans to pay. I'm trying to save up so that I can undergo sex reassignment surgery. That's proving to be a bit difficult because, as I said, I've got bills. I cringe when people call me "she," "miss," or "girl." Some days I trudge home, head down toward the chest I've grown to despise, and can do nothing more than cry into my pillow. I blame that on the stupid hormones my biology pumps through my brain. Most people don't look past my ample chest. And I get it. I would notice, too.

So until I can afford to have something done about it, I remind myself: don't let the boobs fool you.

They will never fool me again. ■



Age 18



Age 13



Age 18



Age 12



Age 19

Photos courtesy of Kay Barnes

From Vietnam to City College

Minh Tran remembers her Vietnamese youth

Story by Chelsea Shannon

It isn't obvious when Minh Tran, student personnel assistant with CalWORKs Job Services at City College, walks into a dimly lit room that she has a dark past full of sadness and loss because she lights up her surroundings with a warm attitude and bright smile.

"It just makes me sad just to think of it," says Tran, who is now 50. "But I am proud of what I have done."

Tran says she struggled for many years as she grew up in communist Vietnam only to escape to America and work hard to support her family and make a life for herself.

Through this process, she lost contact with many of her beloved friends from Vietnam, but with today's social networks she has been able to find them after nearly 25 years.

The path to happiness was a rocky one for Tran, her family and many others in Vietnam. After the Vietnam War and the withdrawal of the United States, the Communist Party gained control of Vietnam and the capital Saigon fell in 1975.

Life became so difficult that Tran and her family had no chance of survival unless they left Vietnam.

"To live in Vietnam at that time was terrible," says Tran. "Because if you live there, you die of starvation."

Tran went from living in a one-story home with plenty of space and a beautiful garden to living in her grandmother's home with her mother, father and brother.

Though her father was still working, Tran's mother lost her job, and the Communist party confiscated the vehicles of the families in Saigon, which became known as Ho Chi Minh City. Due to the lack of available employment and low wages, Tran's family struggled to provide for their basic needs.

"We had very little food for our family," Tran remembers. "We would share one chicken leg for four people."

Because they had no vehicles, 10-year-old Tran had to walk 10 miles each way to school every day. After Tran graduated from high school, she could not go to college in Vietnam because her family had fled for immigration.

At this time, South Vietnamese wanting to leave could either flee by boat and hope they might make it to safely to land where they could live or be sponsored by others.

"The three qualities Minh has are trustworthiness, honesty and loyalty."
To Nhi Do

Many Vietnamese escaped aboard makeshift boats and were known as "boat people." Tran's uncle escaped in 1978 as a boat person to San Francisco and was later able to sponsor his family members for their immigration to the United States.

"A lot of my friends died on the boats on their way to freedom," says Tran.

After 10 years of waiting for their immigration approval by the government, Tran and her family landed in San Francisco in 1991. There she reunited with her best friend, To Nhi Do, who had escaped as a boat person. Ten days later Tran and her family traveled to Sacramento to settle down.

Tran recalls her family's first apartment near 47th Street. They did not know the area that Tran describes as a ghetto

where they heard drive-by shootings at night.

"It was kind of scary," Tran says. "But we had no choice."

Soon after settling in South Sacramento, Tran began her studies at City College and worked with her brother delivering newspapers and at her on-campus job.

"At 2:30, we would get up [and] get on our bikes to ride around Land Park delivering papers," she recalls. "We had to do it quickly because they had to be delivered by 6:30 in the morning. Then I would go take a little nap on the bench in the Student Center before going to my student help job in the library at 7:30, and I would work until my class started."

Tran and her brother (also named Minh Tran; their friends call her Minnie) have had to work hard to support their family. Their parents were not able to find work due to the language barrier. Also, the Vietnamese government would not allow them to bring many possessions, especially money, when they left the country.

"Well, you know, I had to work to support my family," says Tran. "When we would deliver newspapers, if a family did not give us the money on Thursday, that was it. I would be so frustrated, but there was nothing I could do."

After graduating from City College with two associate's degrees in social science and French, Tran went on to California State University, Sacramento, to earn her bachelor's degree in French.

She continued working student jobs until she found a full-time job in Orientation Services counseling international students at City College in 1998.

"I remember that day still," says Tran. "I chose these jobs because I like to help students."

As Tran sits on her couch in her Elk Grove home with the faint squeak of her dog playing with his toy, she looks at pictures of her friends now and in the past on Facebook.

Despite the physical distance between them, Tran and her friend Do kept in contact since 1980 when Do safely landed in Indonesia after her journey as a boat person. Do ultimately ended up in San Jose where she lives now.

“To live in Vietnam at that time was terrible — because if you live there, you die of starvation.”

Minh Tran

Do convinced Tran to get a Facebook account and get in touch with other Vietnamese friends they had known since elementary school.

Through Facebook, they have been able to share old pictures with about 50 friends and arrange annual reunions so they can all see each other in person again. Many of Tran’s friends escaped as boat people, and many boat people ended their journeys in different parts of the globe.

Some of her friends live in France, Australia and the United States, including California and even in Tran’s neighborhood.

“It was such a surprise, a good surprise, to have her live so close,” says Truc Thieu, Tran’s old elementary school friend who lives 10 minutes away in Elk Grove. “It is nice because she is a good friend.”

They now are able to spend time together in between the larger reunions among their friends, when their schedules are not busy.

“We see friends from like when we were little,” says Tran. “Some look the same, and some I cannot even recognize them. We still talk about the past, when we were in Catholic school and just remember about living in Vietnam at that time.”

Although Tran no longer has huge hurdles as she did when she first attended City College, she still works hard and applies her work ethic to everything she does.

“She is a hard worker,” says Ramona Cobian, Tran’s supervisor. “She is very dedicated to her students.”

Tran’s friends also speak highly of her work ethic.

“The three qualities Minh has are trustworthiness, honesty and loyalty,” says Do about her friend of 45 years. “Her work ethic is highly recommendable. I put my trust in her for both work and in friendship. She works hard to get to where she is.”

Now living in her comfortable home, Tran surrounds herself with things that make her happy — photos of her family and classmates, an altar for her grandparents, California poppies, bamboo, her dog Georgi and a large cactus.

“I am very proud of myself,” Tran says. ■

Minh Tran, student personnel assistant with CalWORKs, reconnects with old friends from Vietnam on Facebook.

Photo by Evan E. Duran



To protect &

Taking a ride with a City College Police officer

Photos & story by Evan E. Duran



Officer Andrew Simon, a former Los Rios student now works for the Los Rios Police Department.

I couldn't have been more than 7 or 9 years old when I heard a rumble from my driveway. I looked out the window and saw a large man in a tan-colored CHP uniform stepping off his motorcycle. To me, he looked like some sort of space cowboy or some futuristic soldier. It was then that I realized knew what I wanted to be when I grew up.

Although I never pursued a career in law enforcement, I did get the opportunity to go on a ride along with Los Rios Police officer Andrew Simon and document his day through the lens of my camera. As a photographer, I was able to get a glimpse into many tasks and events that make up an officer's day.

"I think I've always wanted to work in public service," says Simon, who is a 27-year-old Sacramento native and attended both American River College and Sacramento City College before graduating with a degree from California State University, Sacramento.

"You're given all these tools — not just tools that you think of like a gun, a flashlight, a radio — but communication tools through training," says Simon.

Those are the tools Simon puts on every day to help keep students safe at the many Los Rios community colleges and satellite campuses.

Simon starts his day at American River College campus, and then does his rounds by driving to the many Los Rios campuses. Los Rios has 11 campuses spread out through three different counties.

I rode with Simon to all but one of the campuses. As we walked through the many buildings, I watched Simon say hello to students and faculty throughout the day.

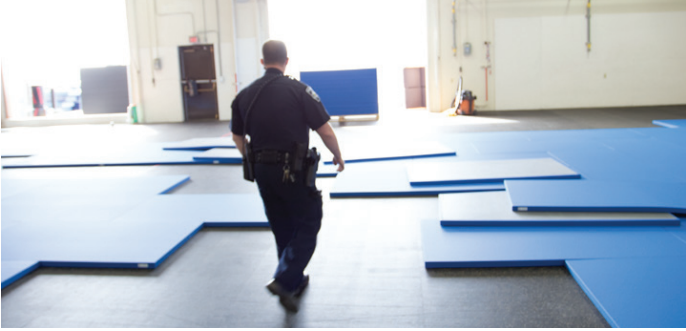
I saw him escort a student off campus after the student was asked to leave the premises because he was harassing students. Though there was a pending case against the student, Simon treated the student fairly and respectfully.

"It takes a certain somebody to go out and just talk to people and get to know them, and say, 'Hey, my name is Officer Simon. How can I help you?'" says Simon.

This made me realize that Los Rios police officers aren't just there to hand out tickets and put people in handcuffs. Their job isn't to be the "bad guy." They are facilitators and problem solvers and diffusers of situations. They are there to protect students, faculty, staff and administrators and keep campus life running smoothly.

For Simon, his job is even simpler: "My main goal for the day would be to learn something new and try and help people to the best I can." ■

serve



“My main goal for the day would be to learn something new and try and help people to the best I can.”

— Andrew Simon



Officer Simon patrols all the various outreach campuses of the Los Rios school district.

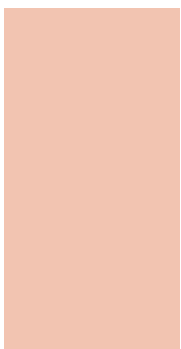
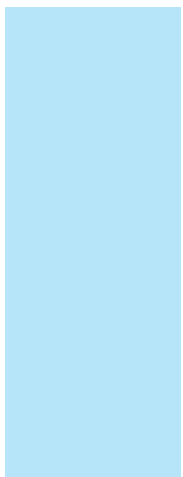




Officer Andrew Simon discusses repair work with Chris Friar on his police cruiser.



Students use various techniques on hair and nails that they have learned in the cosmetology program at Sacramento City College.



Breana Wolff (right) practices on a mannequin in the City College cosmetology program.



@BEAUTY

that lasts a
Lifetime

Cosmetology program appeals to students from all walks of life

Story by Brittany Harden / Photos by Evan E. Duran

Walking through the double doors of City College's cosmetology program causes the smell of acrylic, shampoo and conditioner and perms to flood the nostrils.

In the building's entryway, a small waiting area greets visitors as a receptionist — who checks in clients that want to set up appointments or those who have arrived for hair or nail 'dos — welcomes visitors with a smile.

On any given day visitors to the cosmetology department at City College will see students scurrying back and forth as they spend time learning their desired professions.

Professor Fran Handy stands in the main lobby workroom of the department, advising students on how to give a press and curl. Professor Marcia Bonawitz advises students on the proper technique to paint clients' nails.

Bonawitz, the cosmetology department chair, says in recent years City College's program has had to "adapt to the community and industry."

"The state board changes [the licensing test] to [meet] the needs of the population," says Bonawitz. "It comes back on us to prevent disease."

City College began offering cosmetology classes in 1940, according to class schedules in the Special Collections archives of City College. Courses were free to students who qualified to participate in the program,

and the only prerequisite for a student to participate in the program when it first began was that students "graduate high school, or have at least the 10th grade of education and be over 18 years of age, which is the regular state requirement for Junior College entrance," according to the class schedule.

Now, 75 years after the program began, cosmetology students run back and forth trying to figure out what lesson they are going to focus on for the day. Many can be seen working on clients, mannequin heads or hands to help them perfect their skills.

"I want to specialize in color. I want to go somewhere I can grow."

Adrina Mercado
Cosmetology senior

When the program first started, it covered technical background in anatomy, cosmetic chemistry, and the history of hair dyeing, as well as instruction in salesmanship, related arts and shop management, according to historic class schedules.

Today the program at City College has expanded but still offers vocational training for students wanting to pursue careers in hair and nails.

The cosmetology [Associate in Science & Certificate of Achievement] program and School of Art and Science of Nail Technology are two separate programs combined under the name of cosmetology, according to Handy.

For most students in the program, pursuing an education in cosmetology was a decision based on a lifelong passion for hair.

"I grew up loving hair," says Tenise Brewer, 24-year-old cosmetology student. "My mom was a hairstylist for more than 20 years, and I found myself doing my family's hair."

Brewer, who says she has no plans to own a salon of her own, explains that her goal is to work in the industry upon completion of her coursework at City College.

"I want to work in a salon and I will see where that takes me," says Brewer.

To graduate from the cosmetology program today, students must complete "1,600 hours of training in cosmetology and a minimum number of operations to sit for the California State Examination for the cosmetology license," according to a cosmetology department brochure. Students in the program can complete a two-year Associate of Science degree.

Handy explains that the cosmetology program is three semesters long — students are grouped as freshmen, juniors and seniors. The only students allowed to touch



Instructor Fran Handy (left) gives a facial demonstration.



Tenise Brewen works on a client's hair as part of her training in cosmetology.

and do hair for clients are students in their second and third semesters.

The stylists in the salon are the juniors and seniors in the program who all get a chance to work on clients.

"We rotate our students, and clients cannot request a dresser based on gender or ethnicity," says Handy. "We never time the students. We work at the pace of the student."

The program hours are very strict, and if students miss too many days, they cannot take the exam and they have to stay another semester, says Handy. But those who want to do hair have no problem finishing up their required coursework.

Bonawitz has been at City College since 1998 and says that she came to the campus to help change and develop the nail science and technician program.

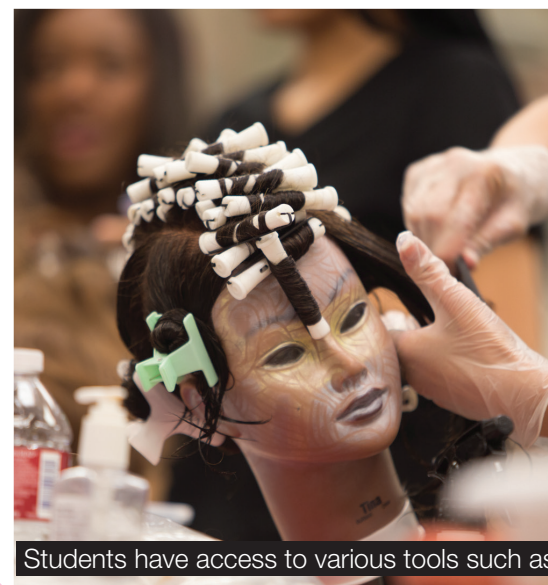
Though Bonawitz loves cosmetology, she admits that the program is not for everyone. She believes the program is for students who like to interact with people, which is why students are still attracted to cosmetology today.

"It's a people-person industry," says Bonawitz. "It changes constantly, and it's real interesting."

Ebonee Enoch, 22, a senior in the program, says that she has always been into hair, and that's why she was drawn to the program.

"My original major was fashion at American River College, and I figured I would go to school for hair and nails, too," she says.

Enoch says she believes the program will help her with job options when she gets



Students have access to various tools such as

her degree in fashion from American River College.

“You need a license to be a cosmetologist. You don’t need one to be a stylist,” says Enoch.

In addition to being an active professor at City College, Handy is also a part of the National Hair Care Task Force for the state of California, which helps regulate and change laws that deal with healthy hair care practices. She helped expand the program by adding instruction on natural hair care for African Americans into the State Board Exam.

Handy says that she didn’t know how to style African American hair other than her own. She explains that to work on African American hair, a stylist needs outlets to do a press and curl — using a flat iron and curling hair. As part of her position on the NHCTF, Handy has advocated for students to have the ability to use outlets during exams.

“I choose to continue to learn because everything is always changing,” says Handy. “I want to stay current.

Handy says that cosmetology has created ways for many women to branch out from what they were told they could do.

“In 1976 there were not that many people [of color] teaching me,” says Handy. “I went to an all-white school. I had to learn to do black hair.”

As a result City College became a test site where students could take their exams and use outlets during the implementation of outlets of the State Board Exam room.

Like Handy, there are students who

wish to go from the program at City College and learn more about the trade.

Adrina Mercado, 22, a senior in the cosmetology program, says she has always had a passion for cosmetology. “I never wanted to do anything else,” says Mercado.

Mercado says that she plans to continue her education once she gets through the program.

“The school is good to learn the basics,” says Mercado. “I want to specialize in color. I want to go somewhere I can grow.”

Current students and cosmetology alumni think highly of the program.

“I prefer this school over other schools,” says Enoch. “I love it. It’s affordable.”

Enoch says that other cosmetology schools, such as national chains like Marinello College, require students to attend full time. She says that is one of the reasons why she loves the program at City College — she can attend school on her schedule.

For other students, the program is nice because it doesn’t require students to buy equipment or books.

“[City College’s] program will give you all you need; everything is supplied,” says Felicia Hamilton, who graduated in 2011.

Hamilton adds that she likes the program at City College because it

focuses on teaching. She believes that she owes some of her success to the program and she enjoys coming back to speak to the professors. She said that the professors and advisers still give her advice on how to network and to get positions.

“I come back and give the teachers hugs,” says Hamilton.

After a long day in the cosmetology lab, the students begin to clean up before they leave for the day around 3 p.m.

During this time the smell of shampoo, conditioner and acrylic is replaced with the smell of cleaning solution.

Handy and Bonawitz wrap up their lessons and remind students to clean up their stations and to always be professional.

How they teach cosmetology has changed over the decades, but nail techniques and hairstyles will always be the same, says Bonawitz. ■



Juan'ya Simmons and Charisse Burns are freshman students in the City College cosmetology department.



mannequin heads and even a replica skeleton to learn different techniques in cosmetology.

Ethnic history from Heningburg

One instructor uses the gift of the past to create his legacy

Story by Veronica Catlin
Photos by Evan E. Duran

On a cold, rainy night in 1997, Keith Heningburg, a UC Davis student, is just getting out of class. As he walks to his vehicle, wet and tired, all he's thinking about is getting home to his cozy bed.

Heningburg, an African-American, notices that there is an older woman who appears to be Caucasian walking in the direction he's coming from. As their paths cross, he observes that the woman hurries a bit, pulls her purse closer to her and gets obviously defensive, as if she were in some sort of danger.

"I couldn't help but to laugh to myself at the fact that this woman actually thought I might harm her when in reality she was the last thing on my mind," Heningburg chuckles 18 years after the fact.

Even today he tries to rationalize the situation. Maybe she was afraid because he was a man — and maybe there were other reasons behind her paranoia aside from race.

Whatever her reasoning may have been, as an African-American male, this wasn't the first nor the last time Heningburg experienced subtle cases of stereotyping for what seemed to be the color of his skin.

"It's situations like that that made me really want to educate people," says Heningburg.

A Michigan native, Heningburg has been teaching at City College since 1998. He is the ethnic studies coordinator on campus and teaches ethnic history with an African-American emphasis.

His classes focus more on the social aspect of American history and how those events played a significant role in how society is shaped today — especially in relation to African-Americans. From African history to slavery to stereotypes and racism — his classes touch on it all.

"I've always wanted to teach a class like this," Heningburg says. "I'm teaching a history that for so long has been hidden."



Professor Keith Heningburg

It wasn't until Heningburg aced a challenging history final during his freshman year in college that he says he started to realize that he excelled in the subject. After deciding to pursue a career in education, Heningburg says he focused on teaching European history.

"He taught my brothers and me how to be men — strong men who support families and take care of their own. He's my hero."

Terrance Heningburg
Professor Heningburg's son

"Call it cocky, but I thought it would be so cool to walk into a classroom with all of those white students with my German-sounding last name and my black face — and shock 'em," says Heningburg with a chuckle.

As great as that idea sounded to him at the time, he began to dig deeper and deeper into history. He discovered something he

didn't think existed: African-Americans have a history beyond slavery.

Growing up, all the people Heningburg looked up to were of European descent. He explains that history about heroes of the civil rights movement wasn't taught much when he was in grade school.

He didn't think there was anyone to admire, but he says once he found out there was, he knew he wanted to share that information with others.

Now, on any given day, students in one of Heningburg's classes can step from a silent hallway into a room filled with intense discussion, friendly yet heated debates and thoughtful theories pertaining to the history of America.

Open dialogue — as opposed to the instructor standing in front of the room and doing all of the talking — is a must in Heningburg's classrooms. Students are free to ask whatever they want, voice their opinions about lectures and challenge other students, as long as comments are respectful.

"One of our biggest problems (in society) is that we don't communicate with each other, which means we don't understand each other," says Heningburg. "We need dialogue, which is why I teach [with these methods]."

Heningburg has been studying history for over 25 years. He earned two bachelor's degrees — one in history and the other in social science — and his master's in history from Eastern Michigan University.

After his father passed away in 1994, he moved to California to be with his family, which had moved there from Michigan years earlier. There, Heningburg attended UC Davis, where he obtained another master's degree in history.

Heningburg's students say they enjoy his teaching methods because it keeps them engaged with the content.

"He makes learning a lot of fun," says Terrance Heningburg, Keith's youngest son, who recently completed his father's History 320 course and is the youngest of two girls and three boys. "I don't think it's possible to fall asleep in class unless you really just don't care about the course."

Terrance explains that the information learned in his father's class can be used in the real world, and he says it also helps you understand how society came to be what it is now.

"I liked it because I found out a lot more about my history as an African-American," says Terrance. "It was the stuff they skipped over in high school and other history classes."

Terrance, an engineering major, says he admires how much his father has accomplished.

"My dad has been a vital inspiration in my life," says Terrance. "He taught my brothers and me how to be men — strong men who support families and take care of their own. He's my hero."

Heningburg recently returned to teaching at City College after taking time off following a serious heart surgery in February 2014. He says he found out he needed the operation following a routine checkup in December 2013.

"My personal care physician called me in January as I was going to my granddaughter's birthday party," he explains. "[My doctor] said he was making an appointment for me to see a cardiologist. I was told [later] that I needed to have a heart valve replaced. Any time someone has to cut into your chest — that's a big deal."

Heningburg says at first he contemplated whether or not to have the operation. However, after discussing it with his wife of 34 years, they decided to go forward with



the procedure.

"It was either have the surgery or not live past another three or four years," says Heningburg.

After the surgery, Heningburg was home within a week and says he had an amazing recovery.

"The doctors told me I was supposed to take it easy and to sleep downstairs, but I couldn't stand to be away from my wife, so within a week I was climbing up the stairs," Heningburg says with a chuckle. "I've been walking and doing everything since then, and I owe it all to the grace of God. I couldn't do any of this without him."

Besides teaching, Heningburg attends Calvary Christian Center in Sacramento and says he hopes to write a couple of books soon — one on forgiveness and the other on marriage.

Heningburg has already written a history textbook he uses, in addition to a

few others, in his courses. He is also in the process of adding more material to City College's ethnic studies program, which will include other cultural backgrounds besides the African-American experience.

"It's important that we study all different backgrounds so that we may all better understand each other," says Heningburg.

Though he loves teaching, Heningburg says he hopes to retire within the next five years.

"I hope to have created a legacy at Sac City," says Heningburg. "I want my colleagues to say they were proud to know me. I want the administration to say they were proud to know me, and most importantly, I want my students to have been enlightened and say they were proud to know me." ■

MEET GIDEON

City College's Aeronautics program uses Boeing 727 as learning tool

Story by Daniel Wilson
Photos by Evan E. Duran



On an unusually warm afternoon in February, students in the City College Aeronautics program trickle into the college's hangar, located at McClellan Park Airfield — the former McClellan Air Force base — and begin tackling various activities, including rebuilding small plane engines. Later, some students will work with City College's Boeing 727 Gideon, located at the Sacramento Aerospace Museum, a part of McClellan Park Airfield.

As the sun glares down on the airfield, a few students open the hangar door — almost as large as the end of the hangar itself — letting in a large beam of sunlight.

Throughout the hangar sit approximately 12 small planes, a helicopter, which is painted burgundy with "City College Aeronautics Dept." written in white letters on one side, diagnostic equipment and engines varying in size and shape.

In the classrooms that line the perimeter of the building, students prepare for upcoming certification testing after punching in for the evening.

According to Aeronautics adjunct assistant Professor Dan Madden, the program, which is one of City College's vocational offerings, requires students to accumulate a set number of hours during their coursework.

At the end of the approximately two-year program, students must pass a test — consisting of verbal, written and hands-on components — to become FAA (Federal Aviation Administration)-certified. This, along with the accumulated work experience, verified by the clocked hours, allows students who complete the program to begin working entry-level positions in the field.

"In the industry right now, a lot of veterans are retiring — both for pilots and mechanics — and there will be a lot of openings for jobs coming in the next few years," says Madden. "The airlines will be hurting for people, too."

For students, being able to work on actual planes in a real work-like setting is an invaluable tool.

"It's nice that everything that's here has been donated," says City College Aeronautics student Doug Stricker. "It says something about the school that people want to support it."

Madden says he has worked for City College for about a year and that it was the donation of a Boeing 727 jet by FedEx on

Feb. 22, 2013, that inspired him to pursue teaching.

After working on planes as a mechanic for about three years and working as a flight engineer and flying planes for about 16 years, Madden says the birth of his twins made him rethink his career because he wanted to be at home with his children.

"I was sitting at home on one of my days off and I saw the news when the 727 [was delivered], and I called up Phil Cypret (the department chair at the time) and I said, 'Hey, you need an instructor? I'm pretty familiar with the plane,' and he said, 'Yeah, come on down,'" Madden recalls.

According to the *Sac City Express*, the Boeing 727 is named Gideon after the son of a member of the FedEx Memphis flight crew, as is the tradition for FedEx when it comes to naming its planes.

"It's nice that everything that's here has been donated, it says something about the school that people want to support it."

Doug Stricker
Aeronautics student

Madden explains that having the plane is great for students, but says it would be nice if the plane was still sitting behind the City College hangar, where it resided after its final flight, so they could start the engines and teach students the process of getting all the systems up and running.

He says he'd also like to be able to work on the engines, but because of the high

costs of storing the plane, safety concerns and because of things like the high cost of fueling the plane, they are not able to do that.

"I can sit them down, but you know it's not the real thing when you don't do it," says Madden. "You can simulate all day, but [actually] seeing it is a big difference."

Across from the hangar is another building where later in the evening, students will attend lecture classes and work on book assignments.

In the biggest classroom of the hangar, groups and individuals — each in various stages of the program — are busy working on, among other projects, putting engines back together. The room consists of Madden's class, where students are working on turbine engines, and another advanced class.

Being careful not to disturb students as they complete their tasks, Madden explains the purpose of some of the parts sitting on the work benches.

"They're working on a turbine engine," says Madden. "This is called a cam, the ignitor fuel happens in this. You can see where it got burned right here. That's where you do your combustion with the fuel and air."

Behind the hangar — just outside the large open door — Madden points out a finished version of the same engine his students have been working on, then he leads members of his class down to the Aerospace Museum to take a look inside Gideon.

According to City College Advanced Technology division Dean Donnetta Webb, the City College Aeronautics program has a rich history, not only on campus, but in the Sacramento area.

Webb says the program started in 1932 when aeronautical engineer Hilton F. Lusk



— the namesake of the Lusk Center on campus — wanted to teach courses at Sacramento Junior College (the name of City College at the time). The college utilized the Sacramento Executive Airport to train students.

Webb explains that during World War II, City College's aeronautics program was instrumental in working with military bases in the area in training many of the pilots who would fly in the war as well as the men and women who maintained the airplanes. The program also played a big role in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Today, City College's aeronautics department averages about 130 students per semester, is the only one in the Los Rios district and is one of only 37 college aeronautics programs in the country certified by the FAA to offer air traffic control courses, according to Webb.

In fact, Webb says City College is one of only two colleges in California to offer these types of courses. Furthermore, City College is the only school in California to offer dispatcher certificates.

Webb also points out that the department offers more than just aeronautics.

"We have actually two distinct aspects to our aeronautics department," Webb explains.

She clarifies that the term "aeronautics" refers to airplanes and power plants, meaning mechanical and maintenance. She says students who complete courses in this aspect of the field can work in jobs for airlines as airplane mechanics, but that the training can lend itself to other jobs because it teaches students about electronics, general engine repair, hydraulics and more.

"In the aviation side, which has to do with anything having to do with actual flight



A Boeing 727 donated by FedEx in 2013 to the Sacramento City College aeronautics program is stationed at McClellan Park Airfield.



Ben Bolin and John Stagg work on a turbine engine.

rather than the maintenance, we have our flight simulators [at McClellan]” says Webb.

Since the aviation program at City College is designed as a vocational program, Webb says, upon completion, students can jump right into a career in their field.

“Students who finish the air traffic control program are eligible to be interviewed by the FAA to go to the academy and to go forward into their on-the-job intern training as FAA employees,” says Webb. “For dispatch, you’ll find that the FAA will send out examiners who will examine students at the end of the course. It includes a knowledge examination with paper and pencil, and then there’s a practical exam where they have to prepare a plane for flight.”

Webb touts the success of the program.

“We had 24 students in the class this past summer,” says Webb, who explains the dispatch program is only offered in the summer. “We had 24 who [tested] for the knowledge and practical, and all 24 of them passed.”

Lastly, the department offers flight technology courses, which Webb says include all of the other basics that someone would need to become a pilot, air traffic controller or dispatcher.

Aeronautics Department Chair Larry Johnson and Professor Scott Miller teach several of these courses. Miller says in addition to traditional lecture and book studies, students in his courses work in a lab where they are able to experience air traffic control radar simulators and aircraft simulators, among other things.

Still, Miller says three or four of his courses utilize Gideon on a regular basis.

“[Having the 727 jet has] really brought a lot of the courses to life,” says Miller. “For example, in the aerodynamics course, we

talk about how jet aircraft wings have a lot of moving [parts], and it’s one thing to show a PowerPoint presentation with pictures or maybe even look at a YouTube video, but to be able to actually look at it in 3D, on the actual level, makes it that much more valuable to the students. We’ve definitely seen an improvement in the retention of that information.”

**“To be able to see
and touch and test
everything on it is a huge
advantage over simply
reading about it.”**

Lance Bickford
Aeronautics student

Like any department at City College, aeronautics gets a great deal of equipment and supplies donated or paid for by grants. Webb says that level of support is essential to the program.

“One of the things that you’ll find is that they work on [the equipment], and by the time you’ve taken it apart and put it back together two or three times, it starts to wear out, so we’re always constantly looking [and] people do give us donations,” says Webb. “We’re getting ready to buy some additional equipment. We have grants, so we’re working on that.”

Donations like the FedEx Boeing 727 airplane are certainly a helpful tool for students and instructors in the aeronautics program at City College, but according to Webb, one thing is for sure. It’s the long-lasting impressions that make the efforts of the aeronautics department at City

College a success.

“It’s amazing how many people know about Sac City aeronautics,” says Webb. “I didn’t know it when I came here. I will go on a plane some place [and someone will ask me], ‘Where are you going?’, ‘What do you do?’ and [I’ll say] I work at Sac City and [they’ll say], ‘Oh, I used to go to Sac City. I was in the aeronautics department.’ It’s amazing how many people [know about us].”

On what seems like just a tiny slice of the massive McClellan Park Airfield sits the Sacramento Aerospace Museum. The building is surrounded by several planes and helicopters — everything from crop dusters to military air vehicles — and among them sits Gideon.

Without a tree in sight, the massive 727 Boeing jet that delivered packages around the world in its previous life is now used for exploration and learning. Not only do the students of City College’s aeronautics program get to enjoy taking a walk through Gideon for the purposes of learning about the airplane, but it also serves as a centerpiece for museum-goers.

As students walk up into Gideon’s insides — a hollowed-out cargo area, void of seats, that was once used to house large shipments — Madden explains that the orange, cylindrical units to the right are the “black boxes” always talked about after plane crashes.

In the flight deck, two students scurry into the pilot and flight engineer seats as Madden sits behind them. He shows the students what many of the gizmos, gadgets and gears do as he explains the process of turning on the hydraulics system.

It’s at this moment that having the

plane as a learning tool, as opposed to just reading about this information in books, truly comes to life for these students.

"To be able to see and touch and test everything on it is a huge advantage over simply reading about it," says Lance Bickford, the aeronautics student sitting in the pilot's seat who says he hopes to be a pilot one day. "It feels great to learn so much about the operations of aircraft. I think that our class will have an advantage over our competition in that we also know how to operate large aircraft, not just fix them."

Though the plane is not able to be fully powered up, Madden instructs another student to turn on the jet's Auxiliary Power Unit, sort of like one would in a car if listening to the radio without turning on the engine.

"[This] was the first time I was personally able to turn on the 727's APU system," says City College aeronautics student Teresa Olguin, who says she hopes to become a commercial pilot in the future. "The last time I was in the flight deck I was sitting in the copilot's seat and able to turn on some of the switches that a copilot would turn on and to run a fire check through all the engines. I feel like I am getting invaluable hands-on experience in addition to book learning."

For students in the program, having instructors who actually worked in the field and can give real life accounts and information about the various aspects students are learning is an important part of the process.

"Dan Madden is a great professor," says Bickford. "I feel like I can ask him anything about that 727 and he'll be able to not just tell me about it, but show it to me, tell me how to change it out for a new one, and tell me the strengths and weaknesses of certain parts. I feel as though he genuinely cares about my future."

It's also vital to have learning tools like Gideon.

"The plane is definitely helpful to the program," says Olguin. "As a mechanic you are not the one who is flying the plane, but you are the one who is fixing the plane that is potentially carrying hundreds of people. By having the plane as a study tool we are able to see how our work directly affects the plane and the pilot. This also helps make us much more aware of our job and the seriousness of it." ■



Instructor Dan Madden shows student Teresa Olguin how to start the APU system of the Boeing 727 at McClellan Park Airfield.



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