Arturo Perez is Cypress College’s Outstanding Graduate for 2005

Returning student finds Cypress College a springboard to UC Berkeley — a long journey from his rural Mexican hometown.

To dream of a promising future for their sons seemed a stretch to Arturo Avenz Perez’s parents. In their hometown of Aguililla, Mexico, public schooling was virtually out of most people’s grasp. Neither of his parents had access to a high school education. The death of his father made the chances appear even more remote.

A few months after his birth, the Perez family immigrated to the United States where his “mother did her best to provide for us ... while facing challenging adaptation obstacles and humbling poverty.” Perez eventually put himself through college — beginning first at Fullerton before transferring here. On May 26, he’ll address his fellow classmates as the 2005 Cypress College Outstanding Graduate.

Clearly it wasn’t an easy journey.

After graduation from Milikan High School in Long Beach, Perez went to make a living for himself and steadily climbed the corporate ladder at Washington Mutual Insurance Services. The income moved Perez into the “middle class” — providing a label that had once only been an aspiration.

But, he was “miserable” and “yearned to be in an academic setting.” On Independence Day, 2003, Perez liberated himself from his job and took a part-time position in the Fullerton College Cadena Transfer Center, where he also began full-time studies.

A semester later, he transferred to Cypress College because, in part, the campus “offered an enhanced honors program and learning environment fitting for transfer preparation to the selective University of California.”

Enduring financial hardships, Perez was tempted to return to his former job. He pressed on, opting to endure the financial hardships and bolstered by a near-4.0 GPA and his ongoing intellectual transformation.

Along the way, Perez found time to coach youth soccer teams and participate in Project Y.E.S., an organization dedicated to improving the social, spiritual and environmental conditions of impoverished areas in Mexico.

Perez plans a political science major with a concentration in international relations and political theory at UC Berkeley. He has worked in Switzerland, explored a number of European countries and speaks English, Spanish, French and German.

He was also accepted to UC Santa Cruz, UCLA and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

Thank You Faculty; Thank You Staff

Today marks the conclusion of Teacher Appreciation Week, as declared by the Board of Trustees in an effort to urge all members of our community to acknowledge the important work of our teachers.

The Board also recognizes and wishes to honor the contribution of the classified school employees to quality education by declaring the week of May 16-20, 2005, to be observed as Classified School Employee Week.

Ongoing
» 16th Annual Juried Student Photo Exhibition,
   Anaheim Museum, through June 4.
» Annual Student Art Exhibit, through May 12.
7 • Saturday
» 9th Annual Southern California Psychology Conference for Community Colleges, Humanities Building, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
9 • Monday
» A Night with Forensics, L-216, 7 p.m.
10 • Tuesday
» NOCCCD Board of Trustees meeting, Anaheim Campus, 5:30 p.m.
16 • Monday
» Final exams begin (through May 27)
26 • Thursday
» Graduation, East Lawn, 6 p.m.
27 • Friday
» Spring semester ends
30 • Monday
» Memorial Day holiday (campus closed)

“T O D A Y”
@Cypress is published each week. If you would like to have items included, please contact Marc Posner in the Public Information Office at ext. 47006 or mposner@CypressCollege.edu.

Margie Lewis, President
(714) 484-7308
mlewis@CypressCollege.edu

May 6, 2005 Newsletter from President Margie Lewis

THEY SAID IT
“In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”
– Albert Einstein

I Didn’t Know That!
This semester, the college’s total enrollment increased by 3.7% over Spring 2004. It was achieved with Anaheim being the only one of our primary cities to send more students. The number of students from the other six primary cities all declined slightly. The top five cities showing an increase: were Long Beach (160); Fullerton (108); Whittier (84); Downey (29); and Norwalk (26). The largest decreases came from: Garden Grove (-46); Cypress (-35); Westminster (-28); Buena Park (-25); and Stanton (-25).

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Speech and Debate Event on Monday

Cypress College Forensics presents: the 7th annual “A Night with Forensics” on Monday evening, May 9th, in Library 216.

Come join us as we showcase our award winning Forensics Team.

Our Speech and Debate students will be presenting their award winning speeches from the 2004-2005 competitive season.

There will be time for questions from the audience at the end of our program.

All are welcome and we hope you will attend,

Department of Communication Studies
Language Arts Division
Cypress College

Psychology Conference on Campus this Saturday

On Saturday, May 7, 2005, the Psychology Department is hosting the 9th Annual Southern California Psychology Conference for Community Colleges.

The event will take place in the Humanities Building from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the second time the department has hosted the conference since it started in 1996.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Kerry Delk, the current president of the Orange County Psychological Association. Other speakers are doctors: Heidi Riggio, Cari Cannon, Cara Laney and Johnson W. Chang.

Conference organizers are Carlos Sandoval, Susan Johnson, Randy Martinez and Brian Killen (who is the conference chair).

Bursar’s Year-End Deadlines

The Bursar’s Office year end deadline for items to be charged to District accounts (bookstore requisitions, etc.) is June 9. All the deadline dates are on the Campus Calendar in Groupwise. Expanding the bottom of the calendar will be easier to read. For more information, contact the Bursar’s Office.
RESOLUTION NO. 04/05-09, CLASSIFIED SCHOOL EMPLOYEE WEEK

WHEREAS, classified school employees provide valuable services to the district and students of the North Orange County Community College District; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees contribute to the establishment and promotion of a positive instructional environment; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees play a vital role in providing for the welfare and safety of North Orange County Community College District's students; and

WHEREAS, classified school employees employed by the North Orange County Community College District strive for excellence in all areas relative to the educational community;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the North Orange County Community College District hereby recognizes and wishes to honor the contribution of the classified school employees to quality education in the state of California and in the North Orange County Community College District and declares the week of May 16-20, 2005, be observed as Classified School Employee Week.

Dated: April 12, 2005

Molly McClanahan, President

Manuel Ontiveros, Member

Donna Miller, Vice President

Nancy M. Rice, Member

Jeffrey P. Brown, Secretary

Karen Johnson, Student Member

Otto J. Lacayo, Member

Victoria Rizo, Student Member

Leonard L. Lahtinen, Member
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
NORTH ORANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 04/05-08, TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

WHEREAS, an accessible, effective system of public education is essential to our democratic system of government; and

WHEREAS, the quality of public education is dependent upon the skill, dedication, and commitment of the people who teach; and

WHEREAS, the people of the state of California receive many direct benefits from their system of public higher education, particularly the community colleges; and

WHEREAS, the North Orange County Community College District is known for offering high quality education, focused on student learning and success; and

WHEREAS, faculty of Cypress College, Fullerton College, and the School of Continuing Education make a significant impact on the experience of students attending these institution; and

WHEREAS, it is important that the contributions of faculty members to their students, their colleges and learning centers, and to the people in the community who benefit from their endeavors; now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the North Orange County Community College District does hereby declare the week of May 2-6, 2005, be observed as Teacher Appreciation Week and urges all members of our community to acknowledge the important work of our teachers.

Dated: April 12, 2005

_________________________________  _______________________________________
Molly McClanahan, President        Manuel Ontiveros, Member

_________________________________
Donna Miller, Vice President         Nancy M. Rice, Member

_________________________________
Jeffrey P. Brown, Secretary         Karen Johnson, Student Member

_________________________________
Otto J. Lacayo, Member               Victoria Rizo, Student Member

_________________________________
Leonard L. Lahtinen, Member
Nurses’ Week

Students from Fullerton College’s Day Spa program were enlisted to treat Cypress College nursing students to a bit of relaxation on May 2. The event was part of Nurses’ Week.
High School Photo Invitational

The 14th Annual O.C. High School Photo Invitational awards reception was held on Thursday night in the Edouard De Merlier Photography Gallery (TE 1), beginning at 7 p.m. Some 250 entries were mounted in the juried exhibit, which is produced by the Photography Department. It runs through May 18. Prizes were donated by 30 Minute Photos Etc., The Used Camera Store, Irvine Camera, CameraLand, Freestyle Photographic Supplies, and Second City Council. Each exhibitor received a certificate for services from Bison Photo.com.
Thursday night was the opening reception for the Annual Student Art Exhibit. The event covered all three floors of the Fine Arts Building and featured work across the division's curriculum. The gallery portion of the exhibit continues through May 12.
THE EDGE OF AIR

Reception: Sunday, June 12, 6-8 pm

Featuring a performance by Ana Luisa Johnson called “Ghost of El Toro”

Exhibition: June 12 - July 16

The Irvine Fine Arts Center is pleased to feature “The Edge of Air- The Legacy Project,” Photographs of the Final Days of Marine Corps Air Station El Toro.

“The Legacy Project” consists of six well-known, regional photographic artists: Jerry Burchfield, Mark Chamberlain, Jacques Garnier, Robert Johnson, Douglas McClure, and Clayton Spada. These artists are dedicated to producing documentary and aesthetically oriented photographs, oral histories, and video documentation of the now-shuttered Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro (MCAS El Toro), and its transition into the Orange County Great Park. Since the project began in April 2002, approximately 60,000 photographs have been made documenting the exteriors, interiors, and open spaces of every component of MCAS El Toro. This on-going documentation will continue over the next ten to twelve years as the site is redeveloped into one of the nation’s largest metropolitan parks.

This exhibition provides a special opportunity to view what is now a modern day ghost town. It is also the first exhibition to exclusively feature the work of The Legacy Project and is presented on the eve of the transition of the former Marine Air Station into the Great Park. The Legacy Project is one of the most extensive and comprehensive documentation projects ever undertaken, while aesthetically, the work of these six artists goes beyond documentation and functions on multiple levels. The Edge of Air book, published by Laguna Wilderness Press in association with the Irvine Fine Arts Center, commemorates the exhibition and this phase of The Legacy Project.

Photo: Jacques Garnier
Classified Appreciation

Virginia Derakhshanian was selected as the classified employee of the year from a group of outstanding nominees. Classified Appreciation Day was a fiesta-style event held in the theater lobby. Click anywhere to view the slideshow.