

The OC COLLEGES

SADDLEBACK COLLEGE • IRVINE VALLEY COLLEGE

IMPRESSIVE CHOICES

There are two outstanding choices for higher education in the region. Irvine Valley College in Irvine has a national reputation for high academic standards, teaching quality and small class sizes. Saddleback College in Mission Viejo was the only Community College mentioned in *The Orange County Register, The Best of Orange County*. It received a special designation as the "Hidden Gem" because the College anticipates future career fields so its students get in on the ground floor of emerging industries.

Featured in this issue of *The OC Colleges* are local "Who's Who" from Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College. We think you'll agree that they are very impressive, just like the Oscar winners, astronauts, and Supreme Court Justice who also graduated from a Community College.

TIMING is EVERYTHING

You could say that a radio class brought them together. Or, maybe it was just fate.

A friend wanted to take a course at Saddleback College and asked Shane to come along. The friend dropped the class but Shane stayed with it. One of the assignments was to interview a deejay. While fellow students were talking to staff at the College radio station, KSBR-FM, Shane remembered that Charlotte, a high school classmate, worked at KBIG-FM. He gave her a call, she lined up an interview, and within two years they married.

Charlotte went to college right out of high school. "I didn't really think about it. I understood that I'd need a degree to have a career." She was immediately impressed with the teachers at Saddleback College and that so many of them had worked in "real life." Their experiences amplified the text books. In looking back, "The best thing I did was to have a job. Those who went away to school struggled to build up a resume." She went on to California State University at Fullerton and got a degree in broadcast journalism. She fell in love with sales as an assistant at a radio station and now helps businesses design advertising and promotions in movie theatres as an account director at National CineMedia.

Shane waited nine years to attend college and jokes, "I'm the same age as my teachers." Right out of high school he signed on with a computer company as a trainer, traveling throughout the U.S. In his family "You go out and start your own

Over 2.5 million Californians attend Community College. That's more than the combined enrollment of all public and private colleges and universities in the State. It could be the high quality of teaching and that lower division courses are **only** \$26 per credit.

It's easy to fit in learning when you can choose between days, nights, weekends and online. Saddleback and Irvine Valley have classes starting January 9, March 20, May 22, June 19 and July 3! Financial aid is available, too. What are you waiting for?

business. Anybody can get a college degree." Shane eventually became a successful financial planner at Primerica Financial Services in Anaheim, working with middle income families. He realized that you need a college degree for the credibility factor, "if nothing more than people are more comfortable that you know what you're talking about." He enrolled at Irvine Valley College, conveniently located near home. "I liked the flexibility to take classes nights or days." The best thing he learned was how to research. "Now I can research for anything." He notes that MySite, the web based student service, "is awesome and makes taking classes so easy." Shane's next step: Cal Poly Pomona to major in business administration with a concentration in real estate, finance and law.

According to Charlotte, "When I got my AA degree I had no college loans and could pay as I went with a part time job. A degree says you've started something and followed through." As an older student, Shane is having the time of his life learning. "College teachers are good at encouraging viewpoints. You get further if you disagree with the teacher."

While they made different choices on where and when to attend, Charlotte and Shane agree that Community College is the best way to begin a four year degree. Next step together: their third wedding anniversary.

Shane Hartman
Irvine Valley College Class of 2005
Charlotte Hartman
Saddleback College Class of 1997

SADDLEBACK.EDU

IVC.EDU

Paul Ho
Irvine Valley College
Chemistry and
Economics Major

SEIZING every **OPPORTUNITY**

He was just driving by on the way to work and saw the marquee flashing "Welcome". It seemed like a friendly place. Now Paul Ho's picture is on the marquee and he's representing over 36,000 students from two campuses, casting advisory votes at meetings with an elected board of trustees.

His parents were both college graduates. In Vietnam, they ran a successful rice distribution business and were teachers. They gave up careers and prestige in 1991 to come to America for their children, and expected him to go to college. He wanted to see the world first. So, Paul Ho joined the U.S. Army and served as a medic and surgical technician. Then, he realized his parents were right.

He may have started at Irvine Valley College because of the marquee sign, but Paul decided to stay while taking his first honors math class. "Professor Dottie Sherling was so intellectually stimulating, caring and compassionate." He was

motivated to apply for the honors program because the courses help to prepare him for the rigors of where he plans to transfer: Columbia University in New York City or the University of California at Berkeley. After that it's on to medical school with the goal of becoming a surgeon.

To Paul, the best thing about Irvine Valley is the teaching quality. "The teachers push the students to the limit so they can excel at a level that they themselves did not expect to reach." The second best thing: his friends. "We all encourage each other and have a common dream, which is to transfer to the best universities in the U.S."

Going to work three days a week as an office assistant, taking honors classes two days a week, and applying for university admission, why would Paul run for the office of Student Trustee? "I know it will open my eyes to a lot of things." Paul believes he can make a difference, although he acknowledges it will be a challenge to fully represent both Irvine Valley and Saddleback College students.

To Paul, Community College is a great opportunity for students who are looking for a second chance. "I wasn't the brightest kid, but here I am in the honors program. I applied myself and I'm glad that it is turning out the way it is. Stay focused and you can achieve whatever level you want."

Paul's younger brother is also attending Irvine Valley, but it's his 10 year old sister that's the focus of the family. She is a full-time student at Fullerton College and is taking French and Arabic. Paul makes a point to say that since she was born in the U.S., "She has the opportunity to become President." Maybe she'll appoint her brother Surgeon General.

BRIDGING the **GLOBE**

U2's Bono, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt and Amali Tower? You may not have heard of her yet, but as co-founder of Bridge2Peace she's doing her part to combat global poverty.

It took her more than six years to get an associate degree. Yet, within three months of the tsunami that killed tens of thousands in Sri Lanka, Amali was sitting with the country's prime minister shoring up a donation of three acres of land to build a school. Just over one year and many generous donations later, a Montessori preschool will open its doors in Lunugamvihara, Sri Lanka for 60 very lucky children.

Amali, of Sri Lankan descent, was born in London and moved with her family to Toronto, Columbo (Sri Lanka), San Francisco, back to Columbo then to Newport Beach. She graduated from high school in 1991. It took awhile to go to college because she was volunteering around the world, traveling to more than 30 countries throughout Africa, South America, and Southeast Asia.

When she walked into her first international relations class at Irvine Valley College, "It was like coming home. Things locked into place. I didn't realize that all this thought and knowledge was within one academic discipline." While she had always been struck by the huge disparity of wealth and poverty, "In class we were able to discuss the issues,

history, realities of how and why our world is the way it is. Everything merged. Education opens your mind to diversity and looking at issues in many different ways."

Just a few weeks before the school opens in Sri Lanka, Amali will graduate from the University of California at Los Angeles with a degree in international development. She'll also be in San Francisco at the Annual Convention of the Community College League of California. She was selected to receive their 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Amali's long term goal is to work at the United Nations. "If you look at the world as a community of citizens then you have a more cohesive environment. Geography shouldn't matter."

Bridge2Peace recently accepted a request by the Prime Minister to build a second school in Belliatta, Sri Lanka. More information about Bridge2Peace is available at bridge2peace.org or by writing Amali at amali@bridge2peace.org.

Amali Tower
Irvine Valley College
Class of 2004

Irvine Valley College

CLASSES START

ENTREPRENEUR of COOL

As an aspiring business entrepreneur, he and his brother introduced skim boards to New Zealand seven years ago. He was only 14. They just published a motivational book that's sold over 14,000 copies (so far). He's a cast member of a reality show we can't talk about yet, writes a weekly advice column in the *San Clemente Sun Post*, tours the country giving speeches, and runs a company, "Cool Stuff" Media, Inc.

Between all the business on a young entrepreneur's calendar, Kent Healy, now 21, attends Saddleback College and takes part in what he says is the most direct correlation to success: learning.

"Learning is the best way to accomplish goals and get what you want out of life. Goals are the blue prints for your life. You could build a house without any plans, but without plans it will fall apart. If you think ahead, the house could be magnificent."

Kent plans to transfer to the University of Southern California, even though he has already found his path. In their book "Cool Stuff" *They Should Teach You in High School*, Kent and brother Kyle offer what Kent calls "advice for the fundamentals of life," that covers money, jobs, school and other common hurdles for teenagers and young adults.

While writing for a younger audience, Kent's goal was to go beyond the average self help guide by articulating a scientific method for success in a relevant, reader friendly manner. Comic style illustrations are used throughout. One cartoon highlights debt, a problem many college students are familiar with: two credit cards, one with a pitchfork, and another with angel wings underneath the headline "Friend of Foe?"

Though young, Kent speaks from experience. He and Kyle started Reactor Boards Technology while living in New Zealand as 14 and 12 year olds, respectively. The motivation for business wasn't based on a random calling. Kent's father, whom he calls a "keen entrepreneur," provided a business sense that Kent was very "fortunate to grow up around."

Kent hopes that others can draw from his experiences and insight. "Success is a science. So many people grow up and they don't get the right tools that will allow for so many possibilities. I want to make a difference in peoples lives, relieve some pressure off of them."

Kent Healy
Saddleback College
Communications Major



THINKING BIG

Ten years ago she was a little scared, not quite ready to go away to college, but wanting a taste of independence. Fast forward to her commencement address during which she challenged the Class of 2005 to think big. "What if you find a way to spend the rest of your life doing the one thing you are most passionate about?"

Saddleback College was close to home and her boyfriend was on the Gaucho football team. Since then, Lori Serrato Olin has traveled all over the world handling international media relations for a Fortune 500 company, married the football player, and opened up her own consulting business. "In my career, I can honestly say that every single day I have used something learned at Saddleback."

After getting an associate degree in general studies, Lori transferred to Concordia University in Irvine and majored in English with a minor in communications. "Saddleback totally prepared me for studying at a university. I took the applied psychology class that helps you figure out what you want to do. I was able to find the major of public relations and communications and knew it was perfect for me."

What really made a difference for Lori was her journalism professor Mike Reed who helped her find internships. She credits those internships, and some naiveté, for landing a job at Fluor Corporation in international media relations when she was only 21. The highlight: ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange.

Lori has lectured on mass communications and public relations at UCLA and her alma maters, Concordia and Saddleback. "While teaching, I learned first-hand that the education and instructors available at Saddleback are equal to any four-year institution."

After the birth of son Clayton, Lori took another scary step and walked out of the corporate world to open her own consulting business. "It's really taken off better than imagined." She still consults with Fluor and many other publicly traded companies, writes a weekly column for the *Orange County Register*, and is the editor of *The Limo Source* trade magazine. Lori also finds time to serve on the board of directors of the Saddleback Alumni Association.

Will Clay be in the Class of 2023?
"We already call him the little Gaucho."

Lori Serrato Olin
Saddleback College
Class of 1997

What do they have in common with Oscar winners,
Astronauts, and a Supreme Court Justice?

**LOOK INSIDE
TO FIND OUT!**

**Famous Community
College Graduates**

Tom Hanks

Oscar - winning actor

Clint Eastwood

Actor and
Oscar - winning director

Fred Haise

Apollo 13 Astronaut

Eileen Collins

First Female
Space Shuttle Astronaut

Arthur Goldberg

Supreme Court Justice

Walt Disney

Founder of Disneyland

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**CLASSES
START JANUARY 9**

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