



# the Urban Horticulturist

A Publication of Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Department and the Cuyamaca College Botanical Society

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Volume 22 Number 1

## FLORAL DESIGN -- *Make It Your Career*

**BY AMANDA SIMPSON,  
FLORAL DESIGN STUDENT,  
AND SUSAN BUTLER,  
FLORAL DESIGN INSTRUCTOR**



Floral design in today's marketplace crosses many other industries beyond the obvious one of horticulture. Experienced florists use their creative skills and training in party and special event planning, designing memorable weddings, enhancing interior design, developing new products for the home goods and accessories industries and teaching the next generation of floral designers. At Cuyamaca College design courses in the Ornamental Horticulture department cover entry level techniques as well as more advanced study in planning and executing special events.

Amanda Simpson, floral intern for the OH department, says, "I started by taking Floral Design I as a break from my busy real estate classes, and now I can't get enough of floral design. The classes are fun,

and students take home beautiful arrangements every week."

There is something for everyone in this field. Together with other horticulture classes, the floral design curriculum covers the floral industry from grower to designer, leading to careers in greenhouse operations, wholesale sales and shipping, marketing and designing for retail customers. Many students simply want to learn how to create wonderful arrangements and decorations for friends and family.

Susan Butler and Diane Citrowski, the two instructors teaching the five floral design classes offered, have nearly 45 years of combined experience in retail floristry and the special events industry. Both are members of the acclaimed American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD). This non-profit organization is dedicated to promoting and educating florists in the art of floral design as a professional career.

Students may take advantage of numerous

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# PERFECT NATURE

Join us for our Arbor Day Celebration  
 March 7, 2006 2:30pm Cuyamaca College Nursery  
 Rita Delapa Memorial Planting and Bench Unveiling Ceremony

**Editor's Note:** A student in the Ornamental Horticulture program, Rita Delapa died of cancer on June 19, 2005 at the young age of 45. Discovering the field of horticulture during the last years of her life, Rita fully embraced it, volunteering at the Water Conservation Garden and working throughout San Diego County to maintain nature preserves and open space. She also wrote for the "Urban Horticulturist."

Instructor Cynthia Drake says, "Rita's happy spirit, horticultural enthusiasm and brilliant mind made her a stand-out in the classes she took. Others will remember her as someone who helped her fellow students study complex botanical names before their Annuals and Perennials test. She excelled in the Xeriscape class I taught, making native plants one of her pet hobbies. She will be sorely missed by all."

Rita's husband, Peter St. Clair, shares the following recollections about Rita and their life together.

Rita's interest in the Water Conservation Garden gives some insight into her personality. During its design and construction, she frequently asked, "How can anything managed by a committee turn out good?" Nonetheless, when the garden opened, she appreciated the humor, wit and symbolism displayed, as well as the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers. In her mind, she allowed it to become a work in progress.

Rita and I moved to San Diego in 1984 and quickly discovered hiking trails around the County. While I kept a list of the trees, shrubs, wildflowers, birds and geology we saw on our hikes, Rita preferred to walk. It was unimportant to her to write down and

catalog life. She preferred to experience it, directly and immediately.

Rita acquired a Master's degree in Public Health from San Diego State. She then worked for Scripps Institute in lung cancer research and UCSD School of Medicine with HIV positive patients.



Rita Delapa at the Water Conservation Garden.

She did not find this work fulfilling. She felt academic medicine did not encourage cooperation, conversation, and contemplation. Rita's enrollment in Cuyamaca College was a means to an end: a job working in the natural world that meant something to her.

Landscape architect Kay Stewart and Rita met as volunteers at the Water Conservation Garden. Kay said Rita admired the anatomy of plants: "I think the patterns that are found in plants drew her discriminating eye and entertained her objective mind. She read and shared with me My Favorite Plants, a collection of short essays edited by Jamaica

Kincaid. The book is beautiful and honors the natural elegance of plants. I think Rita liked knowing that other people were as enchanted by plants as she was."

Rita found a job with Mike Kelly. With Mel Howe and others, they restored nature in sites throughout San Diego County. They removed exotic and invasive plants and planted native plants, seeds and bulbs. They cleaned out ravines, canyons and water courses. They worked hard and accomplished a lot.

Cuyamaca College helped Rita in her search for purpose and meaningful work. She enrolled in courses that offered science along with practice. She said she never wanted to achieve less than an A in any course. Why waste her time if she did not hope to do her best?

Certainly, this is the Rita I knew: a person who had a strong sense of aesthetics, but who wanted beauty to serve a purpose as part of a larger, natural pattern that exhibited strength and resilience. She sought perfection and saw, through nature, that its achievement was possible. Rita transformed many things—herself through education, exercise, nutrition and hard work; our garden; landscapes throughout the County; and the lives of her friends—through her unique ability to pay attention to each living thing and give plants and people her all.





# Water Management – *A Growth Industry with a Strong Network*

BY PAT KEARNS,  
THE IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION

*“Great people are in the irrigation industry...people are happier when they feel their work makes a difference. It’s great to be part of such a growing, exciting industry that has such an impact on our environment.” Warren Gorowitz, CLIA, National Water Management Product Sales Manager and IAEF advisor.*

## About the Irrigation Association Education Foundation

The Irrigation Association Education Foundation (IAEF) and its parent organization, the Irrigation



IAEF Irrigation workshop at PLANET Student Career Days

Association (IA), work hand-in-hand to promote quality water management education and careers, and water conservation through efficient irrigation.

Conservation and efficiency are vital both in the U.S., where more than half the states anticipate critical water issues within the next ten years, and abroad, where one UN study predicted that more than 20 million children will starve in the next decade unless countries institute efficient irrigation systems to insure secure food supplies.

In a market where North America leads the way in supplying the world with 40% of its irrigation equipment, a career in water management provides students with lifelong opportunities at home and all over the world. At this time, the demand for students entering the irrigation industry far exceeds the supply.

The IAEF has focused on three main areas of water management: providing advanced teaching modules to promote best practices in irrigation for post-high school instructors; working with post-high school students to encourage them to pursue careers in irrigation; and working with high school and technical instructors to include irrigation in the curriculum.

The IAEF web site for students and instructors, [www.iaef.org](http://www.iaef.org), includes information on education, detailed descriptions of careers in irrigation, an image library for instructors’ use in the classroom, a glossary of irrigation terminology, and an online interactive job/internship listing services where students can post their resumes and employers can post job and internship opportunities.

As part of its program to encourage students to enter the field of irrigation, the IAEF awarded four winners of the PLANET Student Career Days Irrigation competitions an all expense paid trip to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual International Irrigation Show in Phoenix, and is sponsoring a Student Competition, asking students to submit papers, projects, designs or presentations on efficient water management and conservation in irrigation systems, landscape or agriculture. The winner and his/her instructor, will be awarded a trip to the International Irrigation Show where his/ her paper will be presented.

The International IA show highlights the latest technologies in the irrigation industry, and leaders in the industry and members of the Irrigation Association meet to discuss where the irrigation industry is headed. In addition, IAEF awards a monetary scholarship to one FFA student each year at the FFA national convention.

IAEF trustees, who are representative of the irrigation industry leadership, recognize the need for quality irrigation

education and the need to educate students on the wide variety of opportunities in the field.

People in the industry give high marks in the job satisfaction category, as attested to by a sampling of irrigation professionals:

*“Irrigation allows me to be involved in the four most important aspects of this industry: soils, horticulture, hydraulics and great people.”*

—Steve Hohl, Director, Water Concern, Ltd.

*“I got into irrigation because I wanted to be hands-on...my job provides versatility. Every day is different.”*

– Joe Tennant, Irrigation Superintendent.

### About The Irrigation Association

Founded in 1949, IA members worldwide have worked toward a shared vision – water conservation through efficient irrigation. The IA’s most recent water conservation initiative is SWAT – Smart Water Application Technology, a national initiative of the IA, water purveyors and industry professions.

The goal of SWAT is to achieve exceptional landscape water use efficiency through the application of irrigation technology. SWAT identifies, researches and promotes technological innovations and related management practices that advance the principles of efficient water use.

The IA promotes and supports the irrigation industry by providing a voice for industry on public policy



*Students at Irrigation Assembly Competition at PLANET Student Career Days*

issues related to standards, conservation and water use on local, national and international levels; acts as a source of technical and public policy information within the industry; raises awareness of the benefits of professional irrigation services; offers professional training and certification; and unites irrigation professionals. The IA promotes modern water management skills and techniques for irrigated agriculture, turf, landscape and golf.

The IA circulates a monthly *eTimes* newsletter to its membership of over 1700 companies and professionals in the irrigation industry, as well as to over 11,000 individuals, academics, students and others. To learn more about the IA and its activities, visit [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org).

Student membership in the IA is available. Forms can be downloaded from the IA web site.

## 2006 Calendar of Events

**March 7:**                    **Arbor Day**  
2:30 pm  
Cuyamaca College Nursery

**March 10:** **17th Annual Turf Management Seminar**  
7:30 am to 3:00 pm  
Balboa Park Club, Balboa Park  
2150 Pan American Rd. West  
San Diego, CA

**April 6:** **25th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet**  
6:00 pm  
Club Lounge 30, Qualcomm Stadium  
9449 Friars Rd.  
San Diego, CA

**May 20:**                    **Spring Garden Festival**  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Cuyamaca College Nursery

# Grow, Grow

## Getting Ready for the Spring Garden Festival on May 20, 2006

BY DOUG KALAL

*Every blade of grass has its angel that bends over it and whispers, "Grow, Grow."*

--The Talmud

The Ornamental Horticultural Department had just been formed when the idea to start a nursery was conceived as a way to increase the horticultural experience of the department's students. This year the Cuyamaca College Nursery will celebrate its Silver Anniversary with a 25% off sale during the first three weeks of January.



Jill Leach, Weekend Sales Manager

In 1981 the nursery began with only Brad Monroe and Dee Maranhao as the staff. Today six student interns manage everything from plant production to display, marketing and accounting. These six people are assisted by numerous student volunteers and by students in several classes who truly benefit from such a hands on experience.

Funding for the internships comes from the Morgan Rice Foundation and other contributors. Thanks to these generous donations, the nursery is able to provide students an excellent educational experience.

Working in the nursery for the last 18 months has been an invaluable experience to me as a Landscape Design student. Every week, people that I have never met before ask for my help to solve a landscape dilemma. This real world training has proven to be very beneficial in the growth of my career.

Despite having taken both the Annuals & Perennials and the Trees & Shrubs classes, I still find myself in the growing area each week looking at some plant and saying, "What is that?" Through careful nurturing, the seeds, tiny seedlings and cuttings from the glorious diversity of plants growing

in the OH area become the beautiful plants that the public sees in the nursery.

All through the spring, plant production accelerates to prepare for the biggest event on the Ornamental Horticulture calendar, the Spring Garden Festival. All during April and May the nursery keeps expanding until the retail area has tripled in size. In a typical week during the year, the nursery will sell about 200 plants. In six frantic hours at the festival, over 3,000 plants will be sold.

In addition to massive plant sales, all of the spring semester OH classes have display booths to educate the public on the diversity of courses available in the department. Horticulture organizations and garden clubs from outside the college also set up shop on various parts of the OH grounds. Finally, children's activities round out the festival atmosphere that make the event the horticultural highlight of the year at Cuyamaca College.



Doug Kalal, Nursery Manager

After the festival is done, all the empty plant benches are put away, what seems like miles of watering hoses are packed up and the vacant tents are put back into storage. Students on the staff will prepare to turn over their positions to new students who are eager for a tremendous experience. The cycle of growth continues.

Twenty-five years after the very first plant nurtured by student hands was sold at the nursery, over 16,000 plants will have been sold in the course of the 2005-06 year. Each plant was diligently watched over by a tiny angel whispering "Grow, Grow."

*Doug Kalal is a student in Landscape Design.*



Viva Dorado, Assistant Nursery Manager

# Scholarship Banquet Marks 25th Year

BY TODD WILBUR

The Cuyamaca College Botanical Society will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scholarship and Awards Banquet April 6, 2006 at Qualcomm



Stadium's Club Lounge 30. This annual event will include an award presentation and dinner to honor those students in the Cuyamaca College OH program who are selected as recipients for scholarships for the 2005/2006

year.

This event is always an exciting time for the OH department students and the scholarship sponsors who have been so generous with their participation in this important program. Last year the CCBS scholarship committee awarded more than \$20,000 to 24 students.

All OH students are invited to look into this terrific scholar-

ship program. Any student that completed a minimum of three units of course work in the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture program in the fall of 2005 and plans to continue a minimum of three units in the spring of 2006 is

eligible to apply. Complete information for all OH students who are interested in the scholarship program is available from the CCBS.

Last year I was a recipient of a scholarship award from the Morgan Rice Foundation. This foundation has been an integral part of the OH department at Cuyamaca College for more than 11 years and continues to provide generous support. This year the Morgan Rice Foundation is contributing \$2,000 for student scholarships.

The scholarship funds I received went a long way towards helping me further my scholastic, career and personal



goals. As the CCBS scholarship program continues into its twenty-fifth successful year, I join the hundreds of past scholarship winners who are thankful for all the sponsors, industry participants, OH faculty and staff and college officials who have been so generous with their time, efforts and donations to this important annual event.

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*Todd Wilbur is studying for a Certificate in Irrigation Technology. He is employed part time at KTUA in San Diego as an irrigation designer.*

## Thank You, Supporters!

*It has been said, "The act of philanthropy is ... a belief in the future and that the future can be good. It is investing in that future. It is helping to make the dream come true." Education can help make dreams come true, and the individuals, corporations and organizations that support the Cuyamaca College Ornamental Horticulture Program have invested in the future of our students. We would like to recognize the generous donations to our program over the past six months. --*

Brad Monroe, Program Coordinator

- **Hunter Industries** – A donation of \$1,500 has helped to establish a student irrigation internship for the spring 2006 semester.
- **The San Diego Golf Course Superintendents Association** – A \$2,000 donation has established a turf management internship for spring 2006.
- **Peter St. Clair** – In memory of his wife Rita Delapa, a former Cuyamaca College OH student, has donated \$2,000 to support the Ornamental Horticulture program.
- **Andrea Hamilton** – A donation of \$5,000 for support of department activities.

# MOVING ON . . . Alumni News

**JIM MCKENNA** I was very pleased when Brad Monroe asked if I would be interested in writing some ideas about my experiences in the Golf Course and Sports Turf Management Program at Cuyamaca College. The program has played a key part in helping me towards my goal of becoming a golf course superinten-



*Jim McKenna*

dent. I am currently an assistant golf course superintendent at Shadowridge Country Club in Vista.

To those of you in a similar situation, perhaps going through a career change, Cuyamaca College is a great choice because many of the classes are scheduled after normal work hours. In addition to the flexible hours, the school is very well connected and respected in the golf course industry. This will allow you to network and make important contacts while you are attending class.

Networking is very important, and it's how I obtained my current position. Many people have helped me towards my goals, including Sandy Clark, an instructor at Cuyamaca College, and the superintendent at Barona Creek Golf Club where I worked while attending school at Cuyamaca.

I entered Cuyamaca College in the fall of 2003 with the uncer-

tainty those of you who have gone through a career change know. The first classes I attended, Fundamentals of Ornamental Horticulture and Turf Management, were a quick entry into a language I then didn't speak- new terms like xylem, phloem and cool and warm season grasses became part of everyday discussion.

These classes, as well as all of the others I attended at Cuyamaca, provided me with a foundation for success in my industry. One of the aspects I particularly enjoyed was the fact that the instructors all brought real life experiences to the classes. This was evident not only in the classroom, but also during Saturday labs when hands on time played a big part in the education.

Soon after graduation in the spring of 2005, I was hired by Shadowridge Country Club as the

assistant superintendent. The education I received at Cuyamaca is with me daily as I tour the course looking for ways to make improvements.

**JULIA SCHOLDER** I have moved to Humboldt to study Botany at HSU, where I hope to earn my BS degree by 2007. The knowledge of plant names and characteristics that I gained at Cuyamaca has given me an advantage in so many of my courses. From your classes I have awesome notebooks that I'm very proud of and share with my peers. The emphasis on sustainable living is big up here, and there are many career possibilities in the field of plants. But first thing after graduation my boyfriend and I are off to South America or Hawaii in a sailing boat for two!

**ORION CARRIGER** I graduated from Cuyamaca College in Fall 2004 with Nursery and Landscape Technology degrees. One month later my wife Mary and I moved to Hawaii with the intention of starting a new life.

After six months time, I found the job I went to school for. I am managing a six acre nursery for Orchid Isle Landscaping on the Kona coast of the Big Island. We specialize in flowering trees and shrubs such as hibiscus, gardenia, plumeria and bauhinia. We also have many native Hawaiian plants for the landscape.

Irrigation, propagation, pest control and inventory are my main responsibilities. I use what I learned at Cuyamaca everyday and know that my degrees were key to getting this job. I am very grateful to the Ornamental Horticulture department for helping me reach my goals.



*Orion Carriger on the job on the Kona coast of Hawaii.*

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## CUYAMACA COLLEGE ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE      SPRING 2006

Course Name	Instructor	Day/Time
Floral Design I	Citrowske	T 11:00 am – 3:50 pm
Floral Design I	Citrowske	M 4:00 – 8:50 pm
Wedding Design I	Butler	W 5:00 – 9:50 pm
Special Occasion Floristry	Butler	Th 11:00 am – 3:50 pm
Fundamentals of OH	Monroe	T 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Fundamentals of OH	Mazalewski	M 7:00 – 8:50 pm
		**Lab Track 2: S 8:00 am – 2:10 pm
Plant Propagation	Palafox	Th 5:00 – 6:50 pm
		*Lab Track 1: S 8:00 am – 2:10 pm
Plant Pest Control	Smith	M 11:00 am – 3:50 pm
Soils	OLEary	W 7:00 – 8:50 pm
		**Lab Track 2: S 8:30 am – 2:40 pm
Plant Materials: Trees & Shrubs	Lovewell	M 4:00 – 6:50 pm
Intro to Landscape Design	Fulhorst	W 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Intro to Landscape Design	Fulhorst	T 5:00 – 9:50 pm
Intermediate Landscape Design	Copley	F 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Annuals & Perennials	Powell	W 4:00 – 6:50 pm
Intro to CAD Landscape Design	Fender	F 12:00 – 4:50 pm
Landscape Const: Concrete & Masonry	Cochran	W 5:00 – 6:50 pm
		*Lab Track 1: S 8:00 am – 2:10 pm
Landscape Const: Irrigation & Carpentry	Eagle	T 5:00 – 6:50 pm
		**Lab Track 2: S 8:00 am – 2:10 pm
Principles of Landscape Irrigation	Monroe	W 12:00 – 3:50 pm
Arboriculture	Simpson	Th 7:00 – 8:50 pm
		**Lab Track 2: S 8:30 am – 2:40 pm
Golf Course & Sports Turf Mgmt	Clark	T 7:00 – 8:50 pm
		*Lab Track 1: S 8:30 am – 2:40 pm
Diagnose Horticulture Problems	Mazalewski	M 4:00 – 6:20 pm
Equipment Repair & Maintenance	Love	Th 5:00 – 9:50 pm
Cooperative Work Experience	Simpson	Hours To Be Arranged

*Cooperative Work Experience Required Orientation Friday, January 27 at 5:00 pm.*

\* Lab Track 1: Alternate Saturdays: 1/28, 2/11, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/22, 5/6.

\*\* Lab Track 2: Alternate Saturdays: 2/4, 2/25, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/29, 5/13.

### CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 23, 2006

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL (619) 660-4262 OR  
APPLY AND REGISTER ONLINE AT THE CUYAMACA  
COLLEGE WEB SITE [www.Cuyamaca.edu](http://www.Cuyamaca.edu)**

# Cynthia Drake Says Farewell

They say that all good things must come to an end, and so it is for me. Sometime in late January I will be moving to Oxford, North Carolina to build a dream home on the 68 acres my husband and I purchased earlier this year. Mind you, I have NO winter clothes. All my flower dresses will have to be stored away until the hot humid summer rolls around.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been chosen to teach subjects that are dear to my heart. For the past seven years I have fulfilled a life long goal to teach horticulture in a college setting. What a wonderful way to “pay back” the industry that has served me so well for over 30 years.

I have had the opportunity to teach Annuals and Perennials, Trees and Shrubs, Xeriscape, Fundamentals and Work Experience. I owe a great debt of

gratitude to Brad Monroe for having the confidence to entrust me with teaching these classes. I must also mention a word of thanks to my faithful side kick and teacher’s assistant Valerie Hoot.



Without her help, encouragement and friendship I would not have been able to teach the number of classes I did.

Not surprisingly, I found that I learned as much from my students as they learned from me. I was recently asked by a student

what legacy I will leave behind. My emphatic response was that it is the students I have touched.

I cherish my letters from students that have progressed in their degree programs, in their businesses and in their enjoyment of horticulture. Please keep in touch! My email will remain the same: [olscindy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:olscindy@sbcglobal.net).

As to what awaits me in North Carolina, I have NO IDEA. My hope is to continue my involvement in horticulture, pest management, landscape design and arboricultural consulting. I guess I’ll have plenty of time to learn some new Southern Sayings and travel to and fro eating barbeque! So if you get a hankering for some fine vittles and want to come rest your bones, I’ll leave the light on fer ya! Bye Yall!

## FLORAL DESIGN

*...Continued from page 1*

design opportunities throughout the year at Cuyamaca’s other departments and events. They typically work on creating floral decorations for mock weddings around the beautiful grounds of the nursery as well as for events such as the OH Scholarship Banquet and the Cuyamaca Foundation Dinner Dance. These latter events offer students an exciting chance to work on real designing and installation at popular San Diego hotels and other venues.

There are endless opportunities for students with a Floristry Degree, whether they are business minded individuals who enjoy

working in a creative environment or designers who start with a simple bunch of flowers and skillfully create a stunning arrangement.

Says Simpson, who is also an assistant in the floral classes, “In these classes you gain knowledge of the trade and learn how to take a simple design and turn it into an amazing masterpiece.

“I went from being a Real Estate student to a Floral/Land-



*Diane Citrowske, Floral Design instructor.*

scape Design student. I found my true calling, and maybe you can, too. There are so many highly paid opportunities for OH students in the market today. I can’t say enough good things about floral design.”

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