



Virtual ceremonies, care packages and online yearbooks: O.C. colleges find creative ways to toast Class of 2020.

BY BEN BRAZIL, VERA CASTANEDA, ADA TSENG

Vanguard University has offered degrees for licensed and registered nurses since 2006. But in 2018, it started its first pre-licensure program, which prepares undergraduate students to take the exam to become licensed nurses upon graduation.

The students of the Class of 2020 are the first graduates of that program. But like all other graduates in the nation, they won't have a physical commencement ceremony at this time.

Vanguard President Michael Beals said that the school took a survey, and seniors responded that they didn't want to do a virtual commencement. The in-person ceremony, initially scheduled for May 7, will be postponed to a later, undetermined date.

In the meantime, the Costa Mesa-based university had a celebratory Zoom event for seniors, and Beals sent handwritten notes to the more than 500 graduates.

Andrew Bailey, one of the 24 graduates from the nursing pre-licensure program, said many of his fellow students are feeling anxiety about their schooling coming to an end amid the pandemic.

After taking their licensing exams this summer, these nurses will be thrust into hospitals dealing with COVID-19 patients.

"It's totally unprecedented being in nursing school and graduating, and a global pandemic hits," Bailey said. "Within our group, people are having anxiety just in the finality. We are such a tight-knit group."

He said it's bittersweet that he can't celebrate with his family, alongside his classmates.

"We know we are doing the right thing in staying home, but it's hard because it's something so huge in our lives," Bailey said. "That sense of completion isn't there right now."

How can colleges best help their graduating students celebrate this important milestone in their lives?

This is a question that Vanguard, and many colleges across the world, are asking, as it became clear that it wouldn't be safe to have large gatherings — or to ask family members to travel — during May and June.

Soka University in Aliso Viejo and Fullerton College also polled their students and found that they weren't interested in a virtual commencement ceremony.

In an email to students last week, Soka University's Dean of Students Hyon J. Moon announced that the university will gift each graduating student a cap, gown and stole that will be mailed to them, instead. They will also launch a page on their the university's website where any community members, including their alumni, can send a video, picture and message to congratulate the Class of 2020.

A team at Fullerton College will be putting together 800 care packages for graduating students, 600 of which will be mailed and 200 will be available at a drive-through pick-up. They will include caps and gowns, tassels, diploma covers, license plate frames, water bottles — what the graduates would have gotten if they had a ceremony, which will now likely be postponed until next

See **Class**, page R5



Courtesy of Vanguard University

**THE 24 STUDENTS** in Vanguard University's nursing pre-licensure program, which started in 2018, will be its first graduating class. Andrew Bailey, in the back under the exit sign, says graduating without a physical commencement ceremony due to the coronavirus pandemic is bittersweet.



# HOW 5 O.C. COLLEGE STUDENTS DEAL WITH THE UNCERTAINTY IN EDUCATION AND THE JOB MARKET

BY VERA CASTANEDA

AUSTIN SALCEDO

At community colleges and four-year universities, students looked forward to performing the last rite rituals of their higher education years before launching into the next phase of their lives.

Austin Salcedo, a 25-year-old U.S. Marine, said he was euphoric when he found out he was accepted into Stanford University last Friday.

The OCC natural science major plans to study neuroscience and go into research.

"I stumbled onto psychology books, and I really just fell in love with the content," Salcedo said. "I found it extremely interesting how our brain works and how none of our brains are the same, in a sense."

He was also accepted into a summer research fellowship through a Yale University program. Since the campus is closed, he was given the option to defer the program to next year. So instead, after finals he is heading home to his family in Miami. As for Stanford, he is anxious and unsure about whether to postpone his enrollment to another quarter.

"I've been having a hard time with the online transition. So if I'm going to go to Stanford, I'd really rather it be in-person," Salcedo said.

He later added that he's been "fighting off a lot of



Austin Salcedo

anxiety and depression due to all of the uncertainty in our lives right now."

Salcedo finds himself staring at a screen not being able to stay focused. It's difficult for him to develop a routine while studying from home. He dropped one out of three courses because it was hard to keep up.

His advice to current and incoming students, who will most likely continue with online learning, is to take it easy on yourself and reach out to friends and family to vent.

**SYDNEY ROBERTS**  
Golden West psychology

major Sydney Roberts is Cal State Long Beach-bound.

Since the Golden West campus closed to students and Roberts isn't part of federal work study, her student assistant gig dried up. She is currently finishing six classes while working at an auto shop as an assistant.

She felt the impact of quarantine when she couldn't visit universities as she considered where to transfer.

It's why she chose a campus familiar to her. Roberts will continue to study online in the fall, as all Cal State University campuses opted to cancel



Sydney Roberts

the majority of in-person classes.

"It's definitely a struggle," she said. "I mean, we have to do what we have to do to follow our dreams. But going to a new school, not knowing anyone, not knowing professors or counselors — it's definitely going to be a challenge."

Roberts has made many connections on the Golden West campus, with her counselors and her peers through the college's LGBTQ club, Gender Love Acceptance Sexuality Alliance.

As the president of the club, she helped switch its Pride Prom to a virtual event, which was held last week. There was dancing, a live DJ, caricature artist, tarot card readers and games.

OSCAR FLORES

Cal State Fullerton public relations student Oscar Flores is enrolled full-time while working two internships — one at the college and another at a Newport Beach marketing agency.

Although the marketing agency internship was supposed to end in April, they agreed he could continue working there until he found a job. When the pandemic hit, plans changed and he was let go.

Thursday was his last day of classes, but he said he feels like learning stopped mid-March since he's averse to online



Oscar Flores

classes.

Last week, Flores started digging into the job market.

"Options aren't the best, but I mean that comes with everything that's going on," he said. "Everything in the state is opening in phases. With there being a limited number of jobs and so many people applying for those jobs, it's the perfect opportunity for me to try something new that differentiates me from the rest."

He considered graduate school, but it was too late to apply and didn't think adding more student loan debt was in his best interest. Instead he's looking to free virtual resources to beef up his resume and skills. Flores recently tuned into an online panel about virtual job interviewing etiquette.

DANIEL TSENTSIPER

Daniel Tsentsiper is still trying to decide between transferring to UCLA or UC Berkeley. The 20-year-old Irvine Valley student is studying business administration and expects to focus on finance.

His favorite part of the day is taking a walk around North Lake in Irvine to clear his head after finishing online class sessions.

He's fasting in solidarity with his Muslim friends for Ramadan and joins them in the evenings. Tsentsiper

completes his school work while his friends pray, and then they work out together.

Sticking to a routine has helped Tsentsiper adjust to online courses, but he's nervous about whether the UC classes in fall will continue to be online.

"I'm the type of student that loves to be in class," he said. "My major is very physical, hands-on, a lot of relationship building, a lot of seeing people face to face. That's been really difficult for me."

He tuned into a UC Berkeley webinar in which six professors discussed how they faced the 2008 recession. Their answer was to be flexible.

Tsentsiper is furloughed from his LA Fitness personal training job and an on-campus tutoring job. He also postponed a summer finance internship, a trip to Japan and a birth-right trip to Israel.

"My plan is just to learn this summer," he said. "I'll be able to learn a new skill or get acclimated with the university I'm choosing by taking their courses."

His advice to graduates as well as incoming community college students is to use the resources available, whether it's academic, career or socioemotional counseling.

"This is a humbling experience because in the past few months I've been asking for the help and I've been getting the help," he said. "I've actually signed up for a therapist at IVC. I've never been to therapy before, but now I have weekly meetings with her."



Amanda Fuentes

AMANDA FUENTES

Soon-to-be Chapman grad, Amanda Fuentes had to move from on-campus housing back to her family home in Azusa when the university shut down.

"Moving back was very tough. I had to get used to a new environment in the middle of the school year," she said. "Simple things like a place to study, a place to do your homework was difficult."

On top of the changes, she is caring for her mother who tested positive for the coronavirus. Her mother is starting to recover, but the family is still wearing face masks all the time, constantly cleaning and keeping a distance from each other within the home.

"I'm super proud of myself," she said. "I realized that I'm capable of a lot more than I thought before this entire pandemic happened."

She reached out to her colleagues at the university career center where she interns as a marketing assistant; a career advisor; and her mentor at her other part-time internship to let them know what was going on.

She said their support, along with family and friends who delivered groceries, helped her feel less stressed.

Her summer internship at an entertainment company is canceled, and she's job searching.

Working at an on-campus career center has provided intel on how to network and use LinkedIn. She is interviewing for positions that weren't posted online.

"If you have a mentor, reach out to them," she said. "They will support you like no other. They're the reason why I have been able to be so motivated during this time. If you don't have a mentor, find one in a career center or professor."

## TimesOC

A Times Community News publication serving Orange County

CONTACT US

**Ada Tseng**  
Entertainment Editor  
(714) 966-4635  
ada.tseng@latimes.com

**Raymond Arroyo**  
Advertising Director  
(714) 966-4608  
ray.arroyo@latimes.com

Online  
timesoc.com  
Social Media  
@timesocofficial

**Address**  
10540 Talbert Ave.,  
Suite 300 West,  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Business Office**  
(714) 966-4600

**Newsroom**  
(714) 966-4699

**Email**  
dailypilot@latimes.com

**TCN Classifieds**  
800-234-4444

**TCN Legal Phone**  
888-881-6181

**TCN Legal Email**  
LALegal@tribune.com

**COMPANY INFO**  
TimesOC is published  
Sundays by Times  
Community News, a division  
of the Los Angeles Times.  
Subscriptions are available  
only by subscribing to The  
Times, Orange County.  
© 2020 Times Community  
News. All rights reserved.

SAVE THIS COUPON    SAVE THIS COUPON    SAVE THIS COUPON

SAVE THIS COUPON



## DENTAL2000 IMPLANT CENTER

Call us for all Dental Emergencies!!!

We are ready to  
SERVE YOU!




TREAT ABSCESS NOW, BEFORE IT  
SPREADS!! DON'T SUFFER FROM FEVER,  
HEADACHES, AND FACIAL SWELLING.



TRUST IN AMERICAN  
IMPLANTS. DO NOT BE  
FOOLED WITH OVERSEAS  
KNOCK OFF. PROVEN WITH  
20 YEARS OF SUCCESS.

12 MONTHS HEALTHCARE FINANCING FOR YOUR PRICELESS SMILE. \*OAC

### SINGLE IMPLANT

# \$899\*

INCLUDES IMPLANT, ABUTMENT AND CROWN

\*Expires 5/31/20. Cannot be combined with insurance Fees. New Patients only. Excludes extraction, bonegraft, etc. Cannot be Combined with other coupons.



SAVE THIS COUPON

Treating Negative Covid patients only. With testing done on site, or with validation that they are negative. Certain dental infections need to followed-up on treatment in order to provide lasting results.

Call to book your FREE Consult Now!

Our office has all PPE required to see patients.



## 866-307-1316

**IRVINE:**  
33 Creek Rd, STE 210-B

**LAGUNA NIGUEL:**  
30012 Crown Valley Pkwy, STE B

www.dental2000.com

LAG200573-1

SAVE THIS COUPON    SAVE THIS COUPON    SAVE THIS COUPON

Death can destroy  
families and leave loved  
ones feeling overwhelmed  
and paralyzed!  
Pre-plan today  
as an act of love!

## BURIAL PLOTS FOR SALE

Save more than \$10,000  
off local cemetery side  
by side prices

Protect your family  
legacy of love,  
peace, and harmony.  
Preplanning today  
is an act of love.



Newport Beach Cemetery  
JIM, Cemetery Wholesaler

Licensed and Bonded

949.294.1911

veracastaneda@latimes.com  
Twitter: @vera\_fyd



# Job-searching during a pandemic

## Local career advisors are guiding their graduates

BY ADA TSENG

Workshops at the Cal State Fullerton career center usually attract up to 20 or 30 participants, said Elizabeth Zavala-Acevez, the center's director.

Their meeting rooms aren't big enough to hold more than that.

But now that they've transitioned all their services online, they often have over 100 people tuning into their sessions at once.

Zavala-Acevez said the CSUF students are more engaged with their job search than ever.

Part of it is because they are sheltering in place and have fewer distractions. But it's also because they have to be.

They are entering a job market where roughly 36 million Americans have filed for unemployment in the last two months due to coronavirus-related closures.

But career advisors at Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University and UC Irvine want to emphasize that employers are still hiring. The career centers are updating their job boards, so students can easily see any immediate openings. They are locating internships that are being offered remotely because of the pandemic. They are setting up virtual job fairs. They are inviting employers and alumni to do Zoom interviews and information sessions with students.

It will be more competitive now, but it was always competitive, Zavala-Acevez said.

"Our message is that though the nation is on pause, your career shouldn't be," she said.

Eric Spangenberg, dean and professor at the UCI Paul Merage School of Business, said now more than ever, the school is leaning into their tagline, "Leadership for a Digitally Driven World."

"The philosophy of the Merage School is that we must adapt ourselves and businesses for the disruption inherent in the digital environment," he said. "This is why we reframed our curricula to give students the frameworks and analytical skills to lead through these transformative moments."

"Students need to be prepared that if you are actively job searching, this is the space that you're

going to be doing it for a while," Zavala-Acevez said. "You'll have to interview via Zoom, your offer will be via Zoom, you're going to have to be on-boarded via Zoom, and in some cases, you'll be working remotely."

She emphasized that it's important to think about how to make the best impression in a virtual space.

This includes thinking about the lighting, background and how you dress for your Zoom interviews, but it's also about figuring out how to network online and through social media.

"You can search by alumni through LinkedIn, so college students who want to get into an organization can easily figure out which alumni are working there," she said. "You don't want to say 'Hey, I'm job searching,' but maybe you can message 'Titan to Titan, would love to connect' and reach out for an informational interview over Zoom or phone."

"You have to strategize, build out networks and find good job leads," said Susan Chang, the assistant director of career education at Chapman University's Office of Career and Professional Development. "Having an inside track is more important now than ever."

Blindly applying to as many places as possible might not get you anywhere in this economy, she said.

"The fundamentals are the same," said Cynthia Rude, executive director of UCI Merage School of Business' career center. "Reach out to professionals to set up informational interviews to establish your network, make sure the resume and cover letter you send out are tailored to the position you are applying for, and when you are in the interview seat, have the confidence to own your story and narrative and articulate why you are you the best person for the role."

But this might also be a good time to think about how to "up-skill," she said, referring to pursuing certificates or trainings that will give you a leg up in the job search.

"We will all be connected through this shared pandemic experience, so when you are in the



STUDENTS

HANG out outside the UCI Paul Merage School of Business building before the pandemic. As graduation approaches, their career center, like others across O.C., are helping students navigate the uncertain job market.

Courtesy of UCI Paul Merage School of Business

interview seat, it would not hurt to share how you leveraged the pandemic experience to hone in on specific skill sets that make you the best candidate for the role," Rude said.

Zavala-Acevez has also seen an uptick in interest in their workshops about graduate schools.

But overall, Chang emphasized that during a pandemic, it's important for graduates to be flexible and to adjust their expectations.

"I think a lot of students feel pressured when they graduate to have everything figured out, to find their dream company or dream job," she said. "So we're just relieving that pressure and encouraging them to be open. We live in a gig economy nowadays, so we know that students change jobs throughout their careers, much more than ever ... So they don't have to find their forever job, just a position that builds their skills and sets them up for the future."

Rude agreed about the importance of students expanding the types of opportunities they are open to.

"Understanding how your transferable skills can benefit multiple industries is time well spent and one of the most important ways in which we work with students," she said.

"You have to be realistic about

what you're looking for and your timeline," Chang added. "If you know you're interested in an industry that's not hiring right now ... do you want to wait that out, or do you want to look at other options? I think for everyone, that decision is going to be a little bit different."

Zavala-Acevez, who has been with CSUF's career center for 14 years, remembers counseling students during the 2008 recession.

During more difficult times, employers have the upper hand, and they can be very selective, she explained.

But just a couple of years later, it flipped, and students started having the upper hand. Employers were telling the staff at the career center they couldn't keep their new hires, who leave as soon as they find a better offer.

Chang hopes it's reassuring for new graduates to understand that the economy is often in flux and everyone has ups and downs in their careers.

She has spent the majority of her career working in human resources, hiring people. She's laid people off. She's been laid off. She's learned to enjoy the bumps in the road.

"Don't feel set back by any one thing that happens to you in your career," Chang said. "There are definitely silver linings at the end of the day, different ways of get-

ting to your endpoint. Or you might find that you like something else more along the way ... Being able to work through those adversities and be flexible, those are valuable life skills that serve you well in just about any career that you can go into."

Most of all, the staff and counselors at college career centers want students to know that they are there for them.

"Maintaining access and a friendly face in order to avoid isolation with our students has been a major goal for us during this time," Rude said.

Chang said summers are usually slower because students are gone, but this summer, they are planning to ramp up their services, available for Chapman alumni of all career levels.

Zavala-Acevez said they polled their CSUF students to ask what date they preferred to have their virtual career fair.

The overwhelming response was: after finals.

"The implication behind that is: We're stressed," she said. "Once they finish the semester, they will probably start looking more heavily into job-searching, and hopefully that's when things start picking up a little bit more. One thing at a time."

ada.tseng@latimes.com  
Twitter: @adatseng

## MY HOUSE HAD OUTGROWN ME.

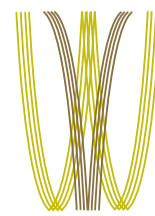
Mac  
Walnut Villager  
world traveler  
dog walker

There was a time when I enjoyed all that space. But the last few years, it just became far more than I wanted to deal with. At Walnut Village I have my own place that fits me perfectly, and the freedom to do other things. New things. With new people. Home is where the heart is, and mine is here.



LIMITED-TIME  
OFFER

Ask about a \$5,000 incentive  
towards moving costs.



WALNUT VILLAGE

a front porch community

Email us at [walnutvillagesales@frontporch.net](mailto:walnutvillagesales@frontporch.net) WALNUTVILLAGE.ORG 866.983.6763

891 S. WALNUT ST ANAHEIM, CA 92802

We're an equal opportunity housing provider. LIC# 306000961 COA# 197





**SECOND PLACE** went to Maddy Noh from Portola High School for her digital photography titled "Multiple Perspectives."



**THIRD PLACE** went to Thomas Cho of Crean Lutheran High School for his acrylic on a tent, titled "Barricade."



**CREAN LUTHERAN** High School student Kevin Lee's embroidered dress.



**IRVINE FINE** Arts Center's annual high school exhibit.

# Irvine teens exhibit their talents

Photos courtesy of Irvine Fine Arts Center

On March 17, the Orange County health officer ordered a ban on all public and private gatherings to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. But the very next day, she backtracked, explaining it wasn't meant to be a shutdown order and that businesses could continue operating as long as they followed social distancing guidelines.

Months later, we now know that nonessential businesses would be ordered to close. But amid the confusion, the Irvine Fine Arts Center was installing its annual high school exhibit that featured artwork from seven schools in Irvine: Arnold O. Beckman High School, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine High School, Northwood High School, Portola High School, University High School and Woodbridge High School.

It was scheduled to open March 20 with an opening party. Judges, guest artists Threadwinners, a fiber artist duo, would announce the prizewinners, and the high schoolers would be able to celebrate their work with their classmates, friends and family.

The installation was finished on March 18 and planned to run through April 11. Even as the closing date approached, there was some hope that it could be extended further. But when it became clear that the Irvine Fine Arts Center would be closed indefinitely during the unpredictable crisis, they took the artwork down. Nobody saw it.

"It is so great that the Irvine Fine Arts Center opens its gallery doors to allow students to showcase their work," said Liz Flynn of Threadwinners. "When I was in high school, we had shows on pop-up walls or in our library, which was great, but this is an actual established gallery. It's necessary but unfortunate that the opening couldn't happen, because that is also part of the experience of showing at a gallery."



Courtesy of Rachel Kim

**FIRST PLACE** went to Irvine High's Rachel Kim for her color pencil drawing "Inseparability."

## ON THE WEB

Go to [TimesOC.com](http://TimesOC.com) to see more photos from the exhibit.

The staff at the Irvine Fine Arts Center is especially proud of this annual exhibit, because it's often the first opportunity for many young artists to show their work in a professional gallery setting.

What these young artists address in their artwork is "meaningful, valid and adds to a rich and broad cultural conversation," reads the official statement from the gallery. "Themes of identity, family, community, communication, and broader social issues tend to come through in many of the works."

"This year, Threadwinners were invited to jury the exhibition due to the approachable nature of their practice and their advocacy for arts education," the statement continues. "We were hopeful that students who are endeavoring with nontraditional materials, and who are interested in a playful and unconventional approach to art making, would be inspired by the paths that Threadwinners have taken."

Alyssa Arney of Threadwinners grew up in rural Indiana, and she says she was blown away by the artwork made by high school students in Southern California.

"Here it's different, because everyone is affiliated with the arts," she said. "The high talent is just there. Everything is top-notch, compelling and very skillfully done. You just don't see this type of output in a lot of places."

There were over 192 pieces of art in the show. Here is just a small selection of the work.

— Ada Tseng



**PORTOLA HIGH'S** Cathy Li's untitled acrylic on canvas.



**NORTHWOOD HIGH'S** Katarina Hanks' "Best Foot Forward."



**UNIVERSITY HIGH'S** Kain Sosa's photo "Figure to Ground."

# A Surf City Favorite Since 1961

**MANY 5 POINTS PLAZA BUSINESSES ARE OPEN FOR TAKEOUT, DELIVERY, OR CURBSIDE PICKUP.**

DUCK DONUTS • HASHIGO SUSHI • JAVA BAKERY CAFÉ • LEMON THAI CUISINE • OMAHA STEAKS • TRADER JOE'S • YOGURLAND AFFINITY & CO. JEWELERS • AT&T • BIG 5 SPORTING GOODS • KAHOTS PET STORE • TITANIUM TICKETS • AND MANY MORE

VISIT [5POINTSPLAZA.COM/OPENFORBUSINESS](http://5POINTSPLAZA.COM/OPENFORBUSINESS) FOR HOURS & DETAILS.



MAIN @ BEACH BLVD • HUNTINGTON BEACH • [5POINTSPLAZA.COM](http://5POINTSPLAZA.COM)

FREE, EASY PARKING • COMMUNITY FOCUSED





## CLASS

Continued from page R1

year.

Fullerton College will also launch a special commencement website on May 22 with photos and video to honor the graduates, including a video that features their 70-student choir.

North Orange Continuing Education, another campus in the North Orange County Community College District, will also mail their graduates a celebration kit in lieu of a virtual ceremony. Graduates will also be invited to return and participate in the 2021 graduate ceremony.

And Cal State Fullerton, which has also delayed their in-person graduation to a later date, is creating a digital yearbook titled "Virtual Commencement Celebration."

Through May 22, the graduating class can fill out their personalized pages, customizing their own interactive slides with photos and a favorite quote.

The plan is to publish the digital yearbook in June.

### THE SHOW MUST GO ONLINE

Many are going ahead with their graduations as planned, but virtually.

Willie Banks, UC Irvine vice chancellor for student affairs, said the school will hold a virtual commencement on June 13 for which 7,400 students have already registered to attend.

The commencement ceremony was recorded in a room at the Bren Center on the UCI campus last week. While maintaining social distancing and wearing masks, Bank and other administrators spoke at a podium dressed in their graduation regalia as though it were a traditional commencement ceremony.

The video will be shown during the virtual event, then students will be split into their different schools and disciplines, where their names will be called. Students have the chance to submit a photo or video to be displayed on the screen when their name is called.

Students will also receive



File Photo

**PAST GRADUATES** toss their caps in the air. This year throughout the country, many graduation ceremonies are either postponed or will be held virtually.

### CLASS OF 2020

TimesOC will continue to cover the Class of 2020 throughout graduation season. If you have a story to share, email [adatseng@latimes.com](mailto:adatseng@latimes.com).

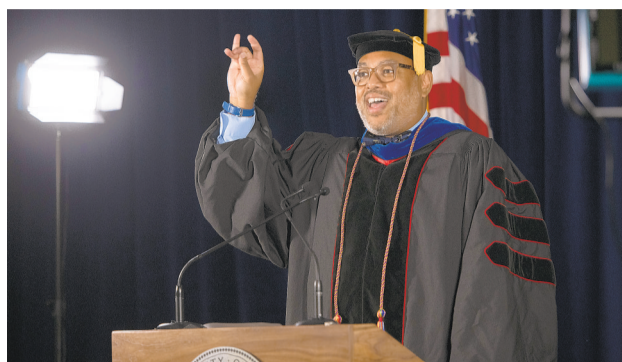
a box with a diploma, tassel and other graduation-related materials prior to the event.

"This cannot make up for an in-person ceremony, but it's the best in this environment right now," Banks said.

He said the school is planning to hold an in-person graduation for December, though that's dependent on state health orders and the condition of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cypress College will hold their virtual commencement ceremony on May 22 at 5 p.m., at the same time they had previously planned. It will be streamed from their website.

The processional will include a 2019-20 highlight video, a roll call of graduates, as well as a video of their 2020 Outstanding Graduate Elise Cunanan and their 2020 Presidential Scholars of Distinction. President Jo-Anna Schilling, Chancellor Cheryl Marshall, Academic Senate President Craig Goralski, Associated Students President Presten Jimenez and Student Trustee Ester Plavdijan will give remarks.



Courtesy of Steve Zylius

**WILLIE BANKS**, UC Irvine vice chancellor for student affairs, taped his commencement address in the Koll Room in UCI's Bren Events Center last week. UCI's virtual commencement will take place on June 13.

"Earlier this semester, we discussed a number of options for commencement and ultimately decided that it is important to celebrate on the day and time that we had originally planned," said Marc S. Posner, director of campus communications at Cypress. "We believe this is our best way to celebrate and honor our graduates and their achievements."

Coast Community College District's three schools — Coastline College, Golden West College and Orange Coast College — usually hold their graduation ceremonies at the end of May. Those will be canceled, but the Class of 2020 will have the virtual ceremonies, as well as the option of walking on stage next year with the Class of 2021.

"You will face many choices in the days ahead," said John Chancellor

Weispfenning in a video message to the graduates. "Plans made months ago may not be your best option in this new world of ours. Know, without doubt, that your college and the Coast district are there, mentoring as needed, continuing your education as needed, and always cheering you on."

Coastline graduates can submit a photo or video and quote to be shown while their name is read during a livestream ceremony on May 29. The video will be featured on the college website and social media platforms. Student participants will receive a care package with a commemorative tassel and stole.

Rep. Harley Rouda (D-Laguna Beach) is scheduled to give a speech.

Orange Coast is holding its online ceremony on June 6. The ceremony will be live



Courtesy of Cypress College

**ELISE CUNANAN** is a second-generation graduate of Cypress College.

and includes presentations from the college's president, faculty and a few surprise guests.

Students, who will also receive care packages, can upload a photo and personal message that will be added to a commencement video. The college is encouraging students and their families to host shared watch parties and connect through social media using the hashtag #coastgrad.

"We recognize the impact that this change has on our students who have worked hard to achieve their educational goals and the meaningful experience that walking across the stage has for students and their families," said Angelica Suarez, OCC president, in a letter to students. "Our commitment is to make the celebration for the Class of 2020 a momentous occasion for our graduates and their families."

Golden West's virtual celebration will premiere on June 12 on YouTube Premium. Graduates can submit 12-second videos or photos with access to a free Snapchat filter with a virtual cap and gown.

The South Orange County Community College District's two schools — Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College — are also holding virtual ceremonies.

Irvine Valley's ceremony will premiere on May 28 at 10 a.m. with remarks from OC Human Relations Chief Executive Officer Alison Edwards, Associated Students President Feras Khatib and college staff. Each graduate

who decides to participate will be recognized with a slide of their name, photo, degree and a 150-word personal message.

Saddleback is hosting its ceremony on June 12 with an opportunity to participate in next year's in-person graduation. They're also collecting videos from students as well as family, friends and faculty for a montage.

And Chapman University officials are honoring seniors on May 22 through a Facebook live toast.

It's the same day as they had planned to have the original ceremony. Although faculty, graduates and special guests will be making an appearance, the Facebook event is not meant to replace the commencement, which they are still hoping to schedule for a later date.

"Following the all-university livestream, many schools and colleges are holding virtual events for their graduates," said Jamie S. Ceman, vice president of strategic marketing and communications at Chapman.

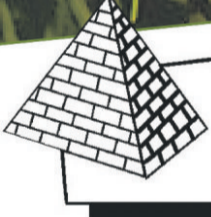
"To experience a pandemic when they are about to graduate — that's very hard for any students today," said Mary Wickman, associate dean of the nursing department at Vanguard. "Nurses go through a pinning ceremony and that is more meaningful and symbolic than even the regular commencement ... We are doing our best in a difficult time."

Banks said commencement is particularly important for first-generation graduates.

"I'm a first-generation college student myself, so I understand the importance of what it means to witness someone receive a college degree," Banks said. "It's not only that person who is graduating. It's their entire family. It's heartbreaking for all of us that we can't do it in person."

"But when things like COVID-19 happen, we have to adjust and be nimble and pivot to positions for the health and safety of our community."



Send your graduation stories to [adatseng@latimes.com](mailto:adatseng@latimes.com)

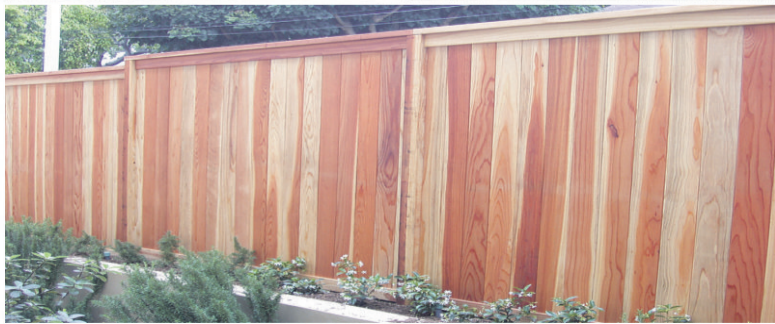


# Pyramid

## FENCE CO.

- Wood, Vinyl Fencing
- Straight Line Pickets
- Chain Link, Block
- Custom Masonry & Hardscape
- Barbeques, Outdoor Fireplaces
- Concrete, Stone, Patios & Walkways



Family owned and operated for over 50 years licensed, bonded and insured, Free Estimates Residential and commercial work

1111 BAKER STREET UNIT B, COSTA MESA, CA 92626  
949-548-4422  
[WWW.PYRAMIDFENCECO.COM](http://WWW.PYRAMIDFENCECO.COM)  
CA Lic # 595701

# Pacific View Memorial Park & Mortuary



## NEW DEVELOPMENT

### PANORAMIC OCEAN VIEW LOTS

### NOW AVAILABLE

- Complimentary In-Park Tour or Online Virtual Tour
- Complimentary Price Quote

**Please call now for further information and to receive Your Free "Personal Planning Guide"**

**3500 Pacific View Drive**  
**Corona Del Mar, CA 92625**  
**949-644-2700**  
FD 1176 COA 507

*All of us THANK YOU! To all our Essential Workers our world needs you and we appreciate you!*



PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Members of Hoag's Medical Executive Committee

# Independence for Our Patients

We believe that our community and our patients will be best served by an independent Hoag.

**“Restoring Hoag’s independence is in the best interests of Hoag and its patients, and is becoming increasingly necessary for Hoag and this Medical Staff to genuinely fulfill our mission in the community.”**

– Hoag’s Medical Executive Committee, March 5, 2020

Michael Hurwitz, MD  
Chief of Staff  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Victor Beretta, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Jennifer King, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Richard Haskell, MD  
Immediate Past Chief of Staff  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Colleen Coleman, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Babak Rad, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Patty Huang, MD  
Chief of Staff-elect  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Allyson Hoppe, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Eric Wechsler, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Behram Alaynejad, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian

Matthew Hunt, MD  
Member-at-Large  
Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian



Learn more and show your support at [www.HoagforOC.com](http://www.HoagforOC.com).