



Athlete Profiles



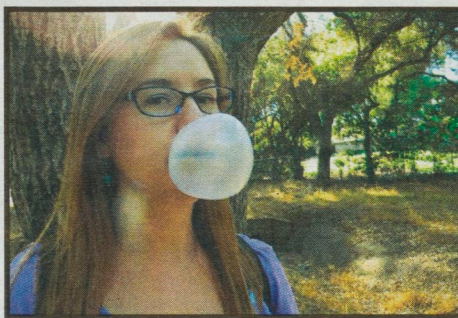
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Graduation Profiles



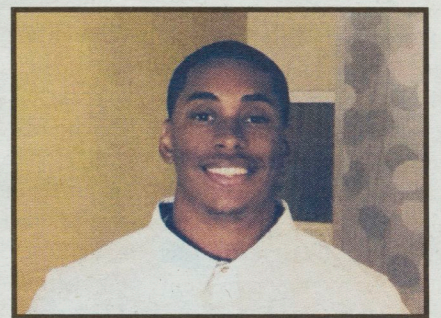
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2,650 to walk as Class of 2015

CSUSM public information officer estimates half are first generation graduates

By JASMINE DEMERS
News Editor

This commencement season, CSUSM will honor the achievements of the graduating class of 2015, who are the embodiment of the diversity and core values that represent the university.

The class of 2015 is comprised of 2,650 students from many different backgrounds and a variety of majors. Commencement ceremonies will take place on Friday, May 15 and Saturday, May 16, and will expect to accumulate a total of 16,000 guests.

CSUSM offers 19 Bachelor of Arts degrees, 18 Bachelor of Science degrees, 13 master's programs, 8 credential programs and a joint doctoral program with UC San Diego.



Photo courtesy of Office of Communications

50 percent of this year's graduating class are first generation college students.

According to Margaret Chantung, Director of Communications and Senior Public Information Officer at CSUSM, graduating students will represent over 30 majors and degree programs as they walk across the stage at commencement.

The College of Business Administration will honor a total of 462 graduates with either a Bachelor's or Master's degree in Business Administration. The College of Science and Mathematics will include 273 graduates with 23 students receiving

a degree in Applied Physics, 16 receiving a degree in Biochemistry, 97 receiving a degree in Biology, 39 receiving a degree in Biotechnology, 72 receiving a degree in Computer Science/Computer Information Systems, 7 receiving a degree

in Chemistry and 19 receiving a degree in Mathematics.

The College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences, which holds the largest number of major programs at CSUSM, will honor a total of 591 graduates comprised of 175 Criminology degrees, 17 Anthropology degrees, 46 Economics degrees, 188 Psychology degrees, 85 Sociology degrees, 38 Social Science degrees, 39 Spanish degrees, 3 Special Major degrees, 133 Communication degrees, 13 Global Studies degrees, 71 History degrees, 104 Liberal Studies degrees, 70 Literature and Writing degrees, 34 Mass Media degrees, 58 Political Science degrees, 62 Visual and Performing Arts degrees and 8 Women's Studies degrees. Lastly, The College of

Education, Health and Human Services will provide degrees for a total of 765 graduates including 42 Integrated Credential Program degrees, 225 Nursing degrees, 47 MA in Education degrees, 224 Human Development degrees, 182 Kinesiology degrees, 15 Master of Social Work degrees and 30 Speech Language degrees.

On top of all of these achievements by the graduating class, it is estimated that over 50 percent of these graduates are first-generation college students. Also, according to Chantung, there will be 20 graduating Veterans this semester as well as 13 former foster youth students from the ACE Scholar program.

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2015 and good luck on your journey.

ACE Scholars celebrates monumental year

Director: 'We are turning around the lives of foster youth one degree at a time'

By KATLIN SWEENEY
Editor-in-Chief

With its largest graduating class and the opening of the Jan and Esther Stearns Center, ACE Scholars is celebrating one of its most successful years in program history. ACE Scholars Services is a program that supports former foster youth while they attend college to get their degree. According to their website, their goals for the program include "meet[ing] the unique needs of students who are former foster youth and to improve their rates of matriculation, graduation and career success."

ACE has been successful as a program thus far, exceeding the national average of 50 percent with a current campus retention

rate of 88 percent.

Director of ACE Scholars Services, Jim Mickelson, said that 2015 in particular is an exciting year for the graduating class.

"Of the general population, 47 percent of people age 26, hold an Associate's or Bachelor's degree compared to only 8 percent of the same age of former foster youth," he said. "With this graduating class of 13 ACE Scholars Services, [we] will have 39 alumni since 2008. We are turning around the lives of foster youth one degree at a time." Mickelson said that the support of the CSUSM community is part of what has made the ACE Scholars program successful.

"We are successful because this campus as a whole supports its students, especially



Photo by Chris Morales

ACE Scholars Services celebrate their graduates at upcoming ceremony.

those who are at risk of not obtaining a degree," he said. "There is no one department; it is the spirit of CSUSM that makes the difference not just with ACE Scholars but Veteran, Native Americans and others.

They are all accepted and valued and that is the major contributor to our success."

Earlier this year, Jan and Esther Stearns made a generous donation of \$1 million to ACE Scholars to create an endowment and the

new center. The new center, which is located in Craven Hall 3400, has a large study area with new computers, training room, program offices, community resource office and student lounge. "We have only been in the

new center just over three months so we are just beginning to learn how this environment is impacting ACE Scholars," Mickelson said. "I have however seen the pride our ACE Scholars have for this center."

ACE Scholars will have their graduation celebration at 4 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 in the Tukwut Courtyard. Mickelson said that it is open to all and he encourages all members of the campus community to attend.

"We have many graduation celebrations on this campus where family friends and loved ones can come and rejoice in the students' success," he said. "Many of the ACE Scholar lack such support, however the CSUSM community comes out to fill that gap."

Email survey seeks students' views on campus climate

BY KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students are being encouraged to complete a campus climate survey about the atmosphere both in and out of the classroom at CSUSM.

The survey, which is conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, collects responses from participants about academics, relationships with students and faculty, campus activities and campus services.

The survey is intended for undergraduate students who have experienced campus climate, completed at least 30 units and are not graduating this semester. The email

was first sent to eligible participants on March 6. Students that are interested in taking the survey should look through their inbox and deleted mail for an email with the title "Share Your CSUSM Experience & Enter to Win a Fall 2015 Parking Permit!"

Participants will be entered into a drawing to win a Fall 2015 CSUSM parking permit (which totals a \$338 value) or one of five \$50 Visa gift cards. Winners will be randomly selected on or before June 3.

Matthew J. Ceppi, who is the Associate Vice President for Institutional Planning & Analysis and Chief of Staff to President Haynes, said that survey response so far

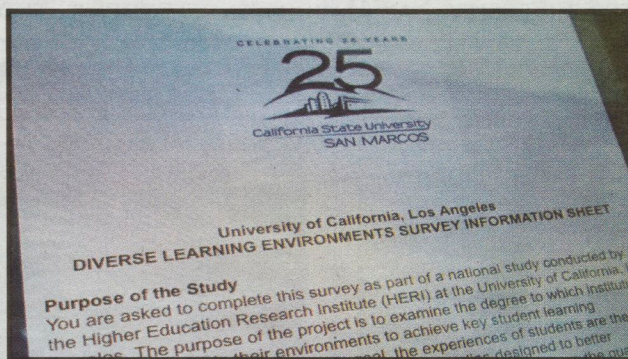


Photo by Chris Morales

Taking this survey will provide important data on campus life.

is at 20 percent. He encouraged students to take part in the survey because of how important it is for providing the school with information on campus climate.

"Results from this survey will be used by faculty and administrators to under-

stand and improve the undergraduate college experience at CSUSM," he said.

Questions about the survey or survey administration can be sent to Cameron Stevenson, Assistant Director of Institutional Planning & Analysis, at cstevens@csusm.edu.

KPDL becomes official sorority at CSUSM

Group caters to Asian Pacific Islander students

BY KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After a long process of advocating to become part of the Greek community on campus, the first Asian-interest sorority was established at CSUSM on May 2.

KPDL, which stands for Knowledge, Perseverance, Diversity and Legacy, is the first and only Asian Pacific Islander sorority interest group at CSUSM. Established on campus in 2009, KPDL was given the opportunity in Fall 2014 to potentially transition to official Greek status by merging with an established Asian-interest sorority.

After the campus Greek presidents and members of KPDL discussed extensively about the potential of making this change, the Asian-interest sorority, alpha Kappa Delta Phi (aKDPH), was selected as the sorority to bring to CSUSM. 12 members of KPDL were chosen to charter the very first class as alpha Kappa Delta Phi. The official sisters of aKDPH are now looking for new members for Spring 2016.

President of KPDL, Trisha Llanes, said that many of the Greek organizations on campus have been welcoming of their transition



Photo courtesy of Heaven Quiban

KPDL celebrates their transition to sorority status at CSUSM.

to official sorority status.

"Transitioning from sorority interest group to sorority status is unreal to all of us, especially to those members who have been a part of KPDL since their freshman year," she said. "Being a senior now, I cannot express how excited I am to be part of this legacy and make a name for ourselves as the first and only Asian Interest sorority at CSUSM."

Llanes said that having an Asian Pacific Islander (API) sorority is something that CSUSM will benefit from.

"Having an API sorority at CSUSM will definitely add more diversity on to campus, which is something we need," she said. "The ladies of alpha

Kappa Delta Phi pride in sharing our culture to other students and those involved in the Greek community - we are thrilled to be making a name for ourselves in representing such a respected and prestigious sorority."

The transition to sorority status will allow the new aKDPH to be involved in the official Greek community on campus. When students explore options of which sororities to rush, aKDPH will now be an option to choose from. This will also give aKDPH the ability to participate in events such as award ceremonies and Greek hosted shows.

Four year KPDL member, Heaven Quiban, said that

bringing aKDPH to campus is a major accomplishment for the entire campus, but women of color in particular.

"A part of aKDPH's purpose for establishment is to give a chance for Asian women to participate in the Greek system, which once excluded minorities," Quiban said. "However, it is not about ethnicity - more so about finding a group of people who share common values and interests with each other, and want to support one another in reaching their goals."

Quiban said that aKDPH is an opportunity for women of all backgrounds to come together, motivate one another and celebrate API culture.

"Having an Asian upbringing makes these connections between women a bit easier, since we can relate our experiences of being Asian-American, but aKDPH is not limited to only accepting Asian women into our sorority," Quiban said. "We welcome women who are interested in becoming the best versions of themselves. Our purpose is to help women become leaders and to support each other personally and academically during and after college, while spreading Asian awareness and our philanthropic cause, Breast Cancer awareness."

Spring 2015

Commencement Calendar

As commencement quickly approaches, the Cougar Chronicle wants to say

Congratulations

to all of the 2015

CSUSM graduates.

To stay up to date with all commencement information, please visit:

<http://www.csusm.edu/commencement/graduates/>

Friday, May 15

☒ 10 a.m.

College of Business Administration

☒ 1 p.m.

College of Science and Mathematics

☒ 4:30 p.m.

College of Education, Health and Human Services

Saturday, May 16

☒ 9 a.m.

☒ College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Majors: Anthropology, Criminology and Justice

Studies, Economics, Psychology, Social Sciences,

Sociology, Spanish, special major

☒ 1:30 p.m.

☒ College of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Majors: Communication, Global Studies, History,

Liberal Studies, Literature and Writing Studies,

Mass Media, Political Science, Visual and Performing

Arts, Women's Studies

Each of these ceremonies will consist of the following agenda:

☒ Processional,

Grand Marshal,

Student Grand Marshal,

America the Beautiful,

Welcome and Introductions,

University Awards,

Special Remarks,

Conferring of Degrees,

Recessional

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ATHLETE PROFILE

Hoop star Andersson ready for next step

By BURLAND DIXON
SPORTS EDITOR

The forward hailing all the way from Sweden is on his way to be a college graduate. The basketball student-athlete Jacob Andersson reveals what made his stint at CSUSM noteworthy.

When asked how his experience has been while at CSUSM, Andersson had nothing to complain about.

"Overall it's been a great experience," said Andersson. "As far as basketball, my two years here both had bumps throughout the season, but we've always manage to figure things out. Overall it's

all positive." Andersson discloses his most memorable moment came during the final game of his 2014 season.

"It was really bitter-sweet, but in the fourth quarter we had the greatest comeback that I've seen or been a part of," Andersson said. "That personified the whole team of that year because everybody was really dedicated and hard working. Everybody really had each other's back, so even though we ended up losing the game in overtime; that was a feat that I'm not going to forget in a long time."

It is interesting to note that Andersson's first sport was

not basketball even though his father was a part of Sweden's first basketball league. He started off playing sports like ice hockey and soccer. And when he tells you why he switched from ice hockey to basketball, there was a logical reason behind it.

"I never really started playing basketball and he [his father] was not trying to push me to play basketball," said Andersson. "I played hockey until I was 15. I was more talented in basketball than I was in hockey and basketball was a better experience to be around as a team with players and friends. I think that was a big factor for me."

The time is near for Andersson to take the next steps in his life, a task that many are quite nervous about. That doesn't seem to be the case for him, however.

"I definitely feel prepared in the way that Cal State [San Marcos] has prepared me as much as it should for my next step," Andersson said. "Since I am a Psychology major, most Psychology majors do go on to get their masters or PhD, so it's definitely not like I've reached the goal of my academic career so far. Cal State has helped me to be where I want to be at this point, but I still have some ways to go."



Photo courtesy of Matt Berson

Well, there you have it. Jacob Andersson, the former ice hockey player and future psychologist says he is prepared for what is next. His favorite memory may not

have been a winning effort, but it sure can be something that will remind him of the bumpy roads and show him how far he's come. Best of wishes to you Andersson.

Patchen enhances skills



Photo courtesy of Matt Berson

By AMY CHASTAIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

With a plan for the future in place, CSUSM baseball player Ray Patchen spoke to The Cougar Chronicle about college and his vision for life after graduation.

Patchen gave a token of advice to fellow students athletes who have yet to graduate.

"Enhance your time management skills," he said. "You can't play a sport forever, at some point you're going to have to graduate and go on in professional life."

Looking back on life as a student athlete, Patchen highlighted two accomplishments he is particularly satisfied with.

"I am really proud of my hit streak that I got earlier this year, a 24-game hit streak," he said.

"Also every semester I've been in school since I was a freshman in high school, I've had over a 3.0 GPA."

After college, Patchen hopes that baseball will continue to be a part of his life. As a Communication major,

he wants "to one day use that [degree] to become a professional major league [MLB] umpire."

Not only does he hope to pursue a career as an umpire, but Patchen also has his eyes set on management training positions. The five week "MLB accredited umpire school starts in January out in Florida" said Patchen. He intends on going through the course in hopes of being a MLB umpire.

Patchen, an infielder for the Cougars is the only baseball player graduating this year. In his time at CSUSM, Patchen has left his mark not only on the baseball field but also in academics. He is only the second baseball player in program history to receive the Capital One/CoSida Academic All District Team honors. This award is given to players for exemplary performance both in the classroom and on the field. Patchen's success at Cal State San Marcos could be an indicator of things to come.

Q&A with hurdler Damon Moore

By BURLAND DIXON
SPORTS EDITOR

The school year is rapidly coming to a close. For some, there are more semesters to go; however, for senior Damon Moore or as his friends call him DJ, his time here at CSUSM as a student-athlete is numbered. The All American track and field hurdler may be on his way to accepting his diploma, but leaving CSUSM also means leaving behind fond memories, a caring professor and a moment to last forever.

Cougar Chronicle: What has made your time here at CSUSM memorable?

Moore: Joining the track team and being very involved on campus. Being really involved and having track to push me to get good grades, to study more and to compete. I think if I wasn't in a sport I don't think I would have enjoyed myself as much as I did.

CC: What was your favorite moment while competing in track?

DM: Being an All-American (becoming All-

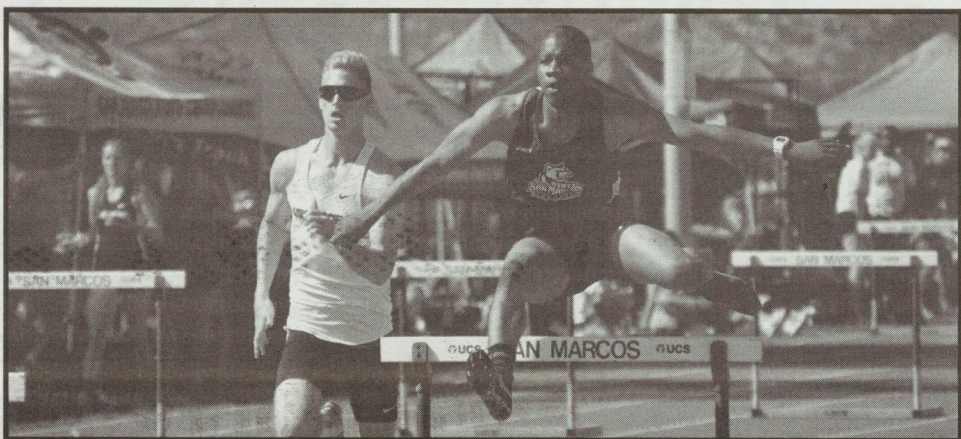


Photo courtesy of Matt Berson

American in track requires a top nine finish at the highest level of competition in the nation) at Nationals and having the school record. We came into Nationals ranked 13th and we came out placing fourth. I think that was the best moment of my life.

CC: Out of all your years here, who was your favorite professor and why?

DM: I'm going with [Professor] Chadwick because she's a Women's Studies professor and I was a little skeptical about taking Women's Studies. I took her 101 class that I really

liked and she made me think about certain issues I never thought about before. She's really passionate about what she is teaching and she really makes us look at things in a different perspective. There was a time when I was having some issues, and she understood and talked to me because she could relate. I'm going to really miss her when I graduate.

CC: What are your goals for after you graduate?

DM: I got offered a track position out here in San Marcos and a head coaching job out in my hometown, Vista

Murrieta. [I want to be] either a track coach or pursue my dreams in the entertainment field as in acting. Over summer, I'm going to work with somebody who is in that field as a director and be her personal assistant to see if that's really what I want to do. From experiencing what he deemed the best moment of his life while competing, to having a professor he could talk when he was in rut, Moore surely did have plenty to enjoy while here at CSUSM. Congratulations and good luck on your journey after graduation, Moore.

Ex-Charger's workout perfect for college students

By AMY CHASTAIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Shedding over 80 pounds in five months is no small feat. Yet, Nick Hardwick, the retired San Diego Chargers center, has done just that.

The former football player began his weight loss project in 2014 upon his exit from the NFL after suffering a neck injury. During his 11 year career, Hardwick weighed around 295 pounds.

As a center, Hardwick used his weight to push the defensive players back and protect

his quarterback Philip Rivers.

At his Feb. 3 retirement ceremony, Hardwick stood before the press at 208 pounds down from 293 pounds, according to a tweet by UT San Diego writer Michael Gehlken.

Hardwick's focus on a healthy life was all but confirmed when he stood before the media with this new slimmed down frame.

On his Instagram account, Hardwick stamps himself as a "fitness junkie" and "health nut."

Hardwick's various social media platforms consistently highlight his wife

and children, but now they detail his journey to health through food and fitness.

He shares workouts which are perfect for college students. These workouts are quick and hard-hitting. They can be done in 20 minutes or less, and with minimal equipment.

The most unique part about the following workout is that Hardwick did it in skinny jeans.

When questioned by a fellow Instagram user on why he was wearing jeans, Hardwick responded that he was "just proving that you can do this workout

anywhere. In any attire."

One minute of each of the following (no rest between exercises). Do as many as possible within the time frame. Rest 30 seconds after cycle is completed. Repeat 2 to 5 times.

Jumping
Jacks
Squat
Lunges
Mountain climbers
Push ups

If Nick Hardwick can do five rounds of this workout in skinny jeans, it is not wild to think it is an attainable workout for any college student.

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JJ Gutowski exemplifies servant leadership

By CHRIS MORALES
PHOTO EDITOR

Jeff "JJ" Gutowski is an outstanding scholar, leader and mentor who has learned from the many hardships he has faced in life and will leave a lasting legacy at CSU San Marcos.

Gutowski, a Business major with a Political Science minor, will graduate from CSUSM in May after arriving to the university in 2010. In the five years he has attended San Marcos, Gutowski has been deeply involved in Associated Students, Inc. (ASI), ACE Scholars, Model United Nations and the California State Student Association.

After moving to Hemet at the age of 10, Gutowski attended Tahquitz High School where he credits much of his success originated.

"As far as Tahquitz goes, I give so much credit to the teachers and everyone that absolutely laid the foundation for me," he said. "They provided me with so much opportunity constantly for growth."

Personal growth is an aspect of life that Gutowski has become familiarized and more comfortable with over the years. He credits his growth as a leader to not only his many successes in life, but his mistakes as well. The current ASI Vice President of External Affairs reflected on some of those moments from his freshman year.

"I needed to turn in an ASI application. I was five minutes late turning in the application, [it] delayed me a whole year," Gutowski stated. "Another regret: for the orientation team, I

went to apply and I wrote it in pencil. Didn't get the position because of that."

Gutowski now writes all of his applications in pen.

Putting in the "extra 10 percent" has now become a mantra that Gutowski has chosen to follow in order to develop himself to the fullest extent. This personal growth has resulted in a character that learns from his mistakes, and is able to find success by overcoming these constant hardships.

"I still mess up every day. It's just taking that nasty anxiety feeling and turning it into something positive," Gutowski said.

He credits his growth and success to many mentors, but he also believes that his greatest success is being a mentor to others. Spreading positivity and building healthy



Photo by Chris Morales

Gutowski shows off his Cougar pride.

relationships with others are small steps he chooses to take on his monumental path as a servant leader.

"If you're going to be a leader it has to be because you're empowering other people,"

Gutowski said. "Once you do that, I think you're going to be on a good path."

Gutowski leads by example, and examples like his are hard to come by. He will be pursuing a career with

Latham & Watkins LLP following graduation; but his legacy, filled with a multitude of friendships and mentorships, will be looked up to by future Cougars as the definition of servant leadership.

Kamalayan Alliance President champions leadership and community



Photo courtesy of Nicole Diwag

By SHANICE DAVIS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

In the fall of 2011, Nicole Diwag began attending CSUSM, declaring her major as Criminology with a minor in Women's Studies. With her time on campus, she has built her reputation as being the President of the Kamalayan Alliance (KA). In addition to being the

President of the KA, Diwag says she was involved with the Pre Law Society and was a Student Affairs coordinator.

When Diwag first arrived at CSUSM four years ago, she recalls it being in a different atmosphere than today and the comparison of the two is what she enjoyed most about CSUSM.

"I feel like people are putting in more time and community into the cam-

pus, so I like seeing all these different events that go on," Diwag said.

In fact, she saw this same growth within the KA organization. "For me being president of the Filipino organization and seeing where I started and where I've gone, I'm glad that we are starting to set our roots more on campus rather than just keeping to ourselves. The best moment is seeing the growth," Diwag said.

A profound moment that Diwag experienced at CSUSM was the time when she was having trouble adjusting to school.

Diwag says one year, a professor took notice of her troubles and let her know that he was there for her with any assistance that she may need.

"A professor noticed that I was doing my work very well in class, but when I

took a test, I'd crumble," she said. "He said, 'I'm here for you, the school's here for you.' To me that was a profound moment because professors have very busy lives, but when a professor tells me that they're there for me, that reassures me that I'm not just a number, I'm not just part of a system."

Usually, once someone graduates, they're either heading to grad school or going to work, but Diwag has a different course of action she'd like to take first.

"This is going to sound so silly, but every single day after graduation, I'm going to drink coffee out of an actual ceramic mug because I've been drinking it out of thermoses or disposable cups, and I'm tired of that."

Proceeding while chuckling, "I'm going to wake up, really enjoy my coffee,

read the news, but more seriously, I'm going to be studying for the LSAT. I plan to go to law school. I also plan to work, but I'm giving myself a year, so I'm definitely going to slow things down," said Diwag.

For potential law schools and jobs, Diwag says she doesn't want to speak on the matter and cause bad juju. As to where she sees herself in the next ten years, Diwag is not interested in finding Mr. Right, being married with kids, but in fact, to be out making a difference and searching for progression. "I want to give back to the community and I want to help empower them the way they empowered me," she says as she recites a quote that symbolizes who she wants to be. "I carry the dreams of the community that raised me."

"I'm definitely not done

learning, I consider myself to be a lifelong learner, I expect that I will travel more, to places you don't hear about." "All the stuff going on, all the discussions people are having, I hope there's progress, in ten years, I want to still be having those discussions. I hope that me and other people can talk about it easier and that we won't have to walk on our tiptoes, we can just say something."

And for future graduates, Diwag has a final piece of advice. "If you are ever given an opportunity, consider it and then if you decide to take that opportunity then do it, kick that door down and just kick ass at it. Prove that this opportunity was given to you because you are the best performing at it. If not, learn how to gracefully bow out of commitment," she said.

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POINT LOMA
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Mary Baca encourages exploration and finding one's self

By SHANICE DAVIS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Senior Mary Baca, became a CSUSM Cougar in August 2011 directly after high school, claiming computer information system as her major. Upon being dropped in the den, she immediately found her clique at the ASI LGBTQA Pride Center, a place that helped shape her to be the woman she is today. "It was my home away from home. A place I could go between classes, eat lunch, make friends and be involved in social justice," Baca said. "I learned so much about the LGBTQA community, and it helped me become more

comfortable with myself as a queer woman of color." Given that the LGBTQA Center became Baca's home, it was only right, that had the opportunity presented itself, she'd take it. "It gave me a chance to give back to the center which I called home. I wanted to create a welcoming and supportive space for all students, the very same welcoming and supportive space I was given as a freshman," Baca said. "I wanted to help maintain the very space that helps students feel at home at CSUSM, so that they can also find a place to belong," she said. It is clear that the Pride Center is Baca's pride and joy, and even less surprising is the fact that she dubbed



Mary Baca (left) with Assistant Director of the ASI Community Centers, Abrahán Monzón.

it as both the thing she enjoyed most at CSUSM and the place where she experienced her most profound moment of meeting other queer individuals at the center, as the center contrib-

uted to her being who she is. "Without the support of the center, I may not be graduating. The Pride Center offered a unique experience, it taught me what classes could not, which is how to

be a person," Baca said. "Being a part of a loving and supportive community taught me how to accept myself, to be empathetic and caring and how to be a leader," she said.

In May, Baca will be graduating and saying her final goodbyes to the educational system. She has a job lined up for her as an IT desk technician for a wholesale sports apparel manufacturer. For future graduates, she advises that students be spontaneous and live a little when choosing classes. "If you only take what you need to graduate, you'll get bored. Get involved on campus! School doesn't have to be a chore. You will meet amazing people that will change your life," she said. On the subject of the future, Baca wants a simple life. "In ten years, I want to be married to the woman of my dreams, have a child, two cats and a red lexus."

Kinesiology Club President Silvas active in surf research on campus



Silvas (left) with friend Michelle Mae Bravo at Super STEM Saturday.

By SONNI SIMMONS
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

Madison Silvas, CSUSM's Kinesiology Club president, will be graduating this spring. Silvas plans to complete prerequisite classes, take the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE), the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS) and apply to nursing school. "Eventually, my plan is to become a pediatric nurse practitioner," said Silvas. "Also, I plan on interning in a hospital to get more experience in the field as well as continue research that I have been working on at CSUSM." While attending CSUSM, Silvas became involved in surf research, participating in three studies and having the opportunity to present the first at the Southwest American College of Sports Medicine Conference (SWACSM) in Costa Mesa

in October 2014. She will be presenting again at the end of May at the American College of Sports Medicine's 62nd Annual Meeting at the San Diego Convention Center. "I never thought I would have such an incredible opportunity to get involved in research and present a study at conferences like these, but I have definitely grown a lot from these experiences," said Silvas. Silvas never thought she would become involved in school or student organizations until she realized how much she enjoyed the Kinesiology Club and the individuals within it. She became the president of the club when the opportunity presented itself and she decided to go for it. "Taking on this role helped me gain confidence in speaking in front of a group of people, organizing and coordinating events, and provided me with a great opportunity to get more involved and

more familiar with the Kinesiology Program and getting to know the students and faculty better," Silvas said. "However, I must thank my advisor, Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi, my club executives, students involved and other faculty members who helped me throughout the year." CSUSM Kinesiology professors and faculty members are one of the elements of her college experience she will never forget. "They taught me so much, kept me grounded and believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself and really pushed me to succeed," said Silvas. "They inspired and continue to inspire me to work hard and never give up. I will miss having that incredible support system and will miss spending time in their classes and labs. Honestly, I couldn't imagine accomplishing what I have without them." While growing to love the atmosphere of CSUSM, Silvas met many friends who have had a positive impact on her life. "I have met so many incredible, unique and brilliant individuals at CSUSM that I will never forget and have made some lifelong friends," she said. "I will definitely miss coming here every day, but I am excited to see it continue to grow in the future."

Vivian Nguyen, leaves her mark

By JASMINE DEMERS
NEWS EDITOR

Vivian Nguyen is a dynamic student leader at CSUSM who is grateful for the experiences and opportunities she has had throughout her college career. In her fifth year here on campus, Nguyen is all set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences in May. She is currently the Outreach and Communications Specialist for the University Student Union Activities Board (USUAB), and has also been involved in other organizations such as Orientation Team (O Team) and Alpha Omicron Pi. Through her involvement in these organizations, Nguyen said that she has been transformed and has been given the opportunity to grow through these experiences. "I wasn't involved at all in high school, besides marching band my freshman year. In college, I ended up applying to OTeam on a mere whim, and it helped me grow so much as a person and eventually made me realize that I could in fact be a leader some day," she said. "One of my best friends from OTeam, Dominica Ranieri, pushed me to apply for USUAB, which really became the heart of my transformation on campus... [and] Alpha Omicron Pi showed me the importance of sisterhood, and gave me a hundred sisters when I had no siblings in my family life at home." When asked about the impact she has made at CSUSM, Nguyen humbly responded by saying that she hopes she has been able to influence at least some of her peers during her time as an undergraduate. "I've found that in my ex-



Photo courtesy of Viv Nguyen

CSUSM student Vivian Nguyen is extensively involved on campus. perience with growing up and my life here on campus that it just takes one person to care and support someone to make a real difference in their chosen path," Nguyen said. "I just hope that I was able to be that person for someone at some point in their life during their college career." Nguyen said that she is feeling nostalgic as her time at CSUSM comes to a close and explains that she will miss the individuals that she has grown to love. "I'll miss the people. I'll miss the comfort of feeling at home and being surrounded with familiar faces. I never expected to gain so much from this campus, but the people herestaff, faculty and my peers have made every difference in my life. And it's just incredible," she said. "Also, I'll miss the late nights in the study rooms in Kellogg. Don't get me wrong, they're long and tortuous, but once you've shared the bond of dramatically crying over halfwritten notes all semester with another student, that stuff sticks with you." After graduation, Nguyen intends to pursue her passion in Marine Biology and Film. "I'm planning on taking the year off to get more experience under my belt in the biology field. I only recently

decided that I wanted to pursue marine biology because I am a mermaid and no one can tell me otherwise. I'm hoping to get into grad school where I can obtain a master's degree while also applying for film school or submitting work to film festivals," Nguyen said. "Why settle with one passion when you can have two? I hope that life takes me to great places and if I'm ever at the point where all the doors are open for me, I'll have enough courage to go down the right path." Nguyen's positive and upbeat attitude has already inspired the people that she comes into contact with at CSUSM, and will continue to do so as she graduates and embarks on her new journey. "I'm just searching for whatever makes me happy. I've had a lot of ups and downs in my life, and I just want to be able wake up in the morning with a smile, be a regular at a great local coffee shop and go to work at a place that I'm passionate about," she said. "Hopefully I'll find a way to be happy and inspire people in my own way. But I'll always have CSUSM in my heart and it will be hard to say goodbye this May. This campus has given me so much and I owe it a lot."

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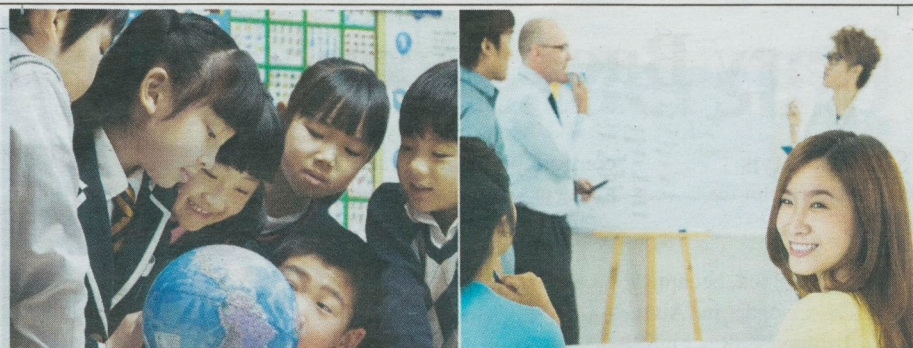
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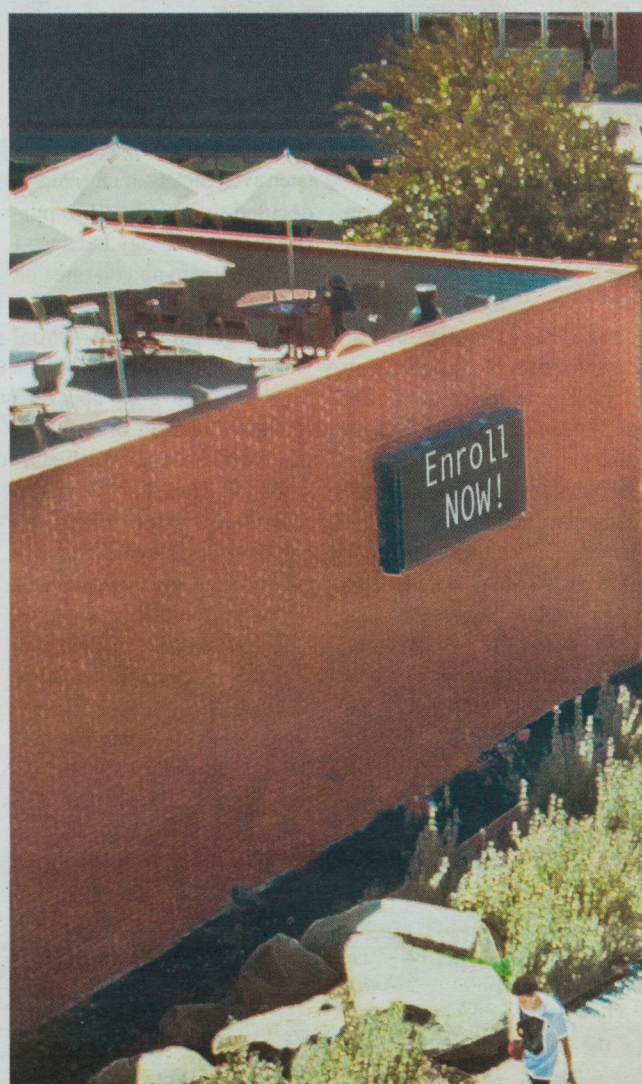
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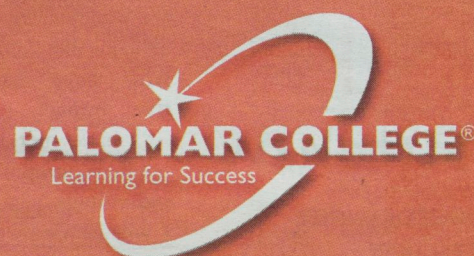
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Gaby Sanchez encourages students to never give up on their dreams



Photo by Gloria Magallanes

BY GLORIA MAGALLANES
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Gaby Sanchez is currently a senior who has studied at CSUSM for the past five years. She is graduating this semester with a degree in Global Studies and History. She is involved on campus, most notably at the Office of Global Education. Sanchez is passionate about international affairs and would like to teach abroad after she finishes the credential program at CSUSM. She hopes to someday “inspire students to continue their education in whatever they want.” She decided to choose both of her majors when she was

at an exciting time in her life. Sanchez studied abroad in Korea for a year in 2012. The experience was life changing for her. “While I was studying abroad, I realized that I wanted to learn more about international relations,” Sanchez said. When Sanchez returned, she got involved with international students, especially those who came from Korea. She loves to meet new students that come from different countries and help them settle into their new life in America by befriending them. So far she has loved her experience at CSUSM. She is grateful for the “opportunity to meet many wonderful people, including international students.”

When it comes to advice for other students, those still in the battle for a degree, she has one piece of advice. “Go out and get out of your comfort zone. Meet new people and discover new places,” Sanchez said. After all, it’s good to have a balance in our lives as students and take a breather every once in a while. What would the college experience be like without a little fun and adventure?

As a Latina, Sanchez is well aware of the difficulties and the pressure placed upon Latino and Latina students to succeed or even the expectation to fail. However, she doesn’t let this stop her and she will continue to climb the educational ladder until she reaches her goals. She has one message for Latino students who are in the same fight. “Don’t give up, no matter who tells you that you can’t,” Sanchez said. Sanchez is overall a fun, loving and caring individual with a bright future. As my friend and fellow graduate, I am so proud of her accomplishments. I know there are better things in store for her.

Congratulations, Graduate! Si se pudo!

Viri Guzman blazes a trail for others to follow



Photo by Gloria Magallanes

BY GLORIA MAGALLANES
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Viri Guzman is a senior at CSUSM. She is double majoring in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Spanish. After five long years as a student here, she will be graduating in May, the first in her family to do so. From first glance, people wouldn’t be able to tell that Guzman has had a hard life. She lost her mother at a young age; she was only 11 years old at the time. As a result, her aunt and uncle took her into their home. Because of the trauma she suffered from losing her mother, she struggled with thoughts of depression and suicide. “I felt as if my life was purposeless. There was nothing that I really looked to. There wasn’t much that motivated me to do my

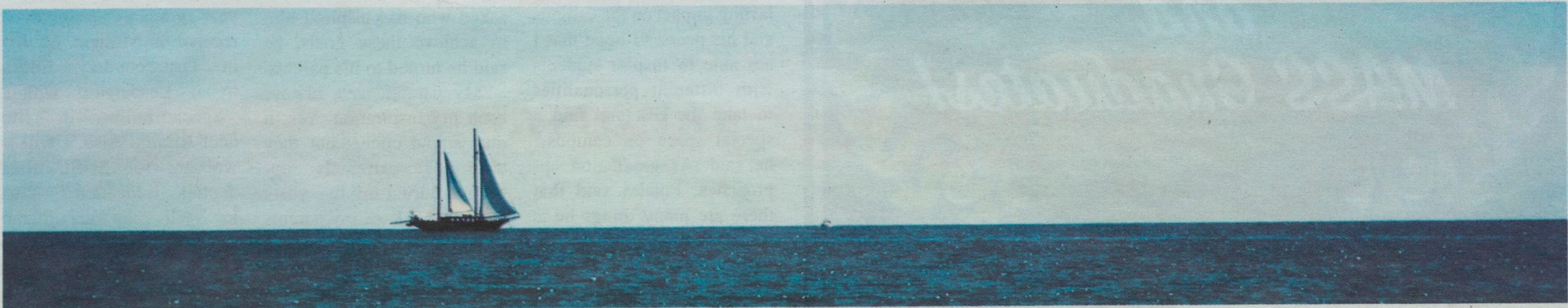
best, except for the exhortations of my aunt and uncle,” Guzman said. Her introduction to church and God eventually helped her realize that she needed to make a change in her life and that’s when she decided to turn her life around. “I no longer think the way I thought, I see each day as a blessing, and I know I was born with a purpose.” Ever since then Guzman has become an inspiration for her family and those around her. She is driven and intelligent; there’s no doubt that she will accomplish what she sets out to do. She has always been interested in the law and the judicial system. She wants to work with children, youth, families and victims of sex trafficking. She wants to advocate for their rights and help “empower these groups of individuals.” When asked

why she chose to study Political Science, she said that it “was the passion to serve in the legal system and make an impact in people’s lives by being a bridge of justice.” According to Guzman, her time at CSUSM has been challenging but rewarding. She especially likes how professors on campus challenge their students to think critically. She said that it helps to “further broaden our perspective on various topics,” especially in her area of study. Guzman’s Christian faith has been a major part of her life, one that has helped her through these challenging years at CSUSM. “My vision for the future is no longer blurred. He lights up the path before me, directing my every step. I owe my success to Him alone and to those He blessed me with in guiding me and encouraging me throughout this journey,” she said. When it comes to advice all she has to say is, “no matter what comes your way, keep going [...] There might be times that you’ll feel discouraged and it’s okay, but don’t let it overcome you, overcome IT.” **Congratulations, Graduate! Continue to be a light in this dark world.**

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Jeff Kennedy moves out into the world intent on making a difference

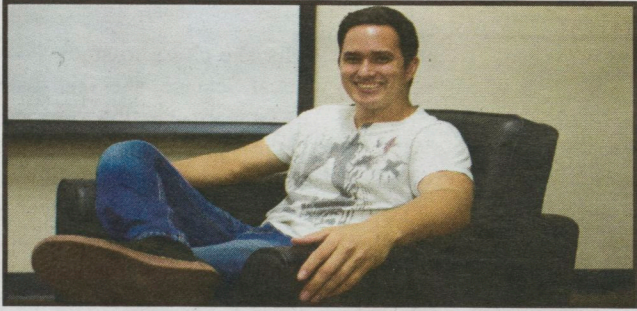


Photo by Gloria Magallanes

BY GLORIA MAGALLANES
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Jeff Kennedy is a current senior here at CSUSM and will be graduating in May with a degree in Criminology and Justice. He also holds two associate degrees from Palomar College in San Marcos, which he got before transferring to CSUSM in 2013. He's been a student here over the past two years and has enjoyed his time on campus thus far. He attributes this experience to the people. When I asked him what he meant, he simply replied that "the people are kind." He spends some of his free time on campus with a group of local and international friends at the Global Education office during the week. The Office of Global Education is a hangout spot for many in-

ternational students as well as study abroad returnees. Kennedy himself is a returnee; he studied abroad for a semester in 2014. He lived in England for half the year starting in January where he continued his studies.

When it comes to his future career, Kennedy knew early on what path he wanted to take. He's always wanted to be a policeman so that helped him decide to become a Criminology and Justice major. Specifically, Kennedy wants to be a policeman for the LAPD. He hopes to work for them when he graduates and has already taken the first steps to becoming a policeman in LA.

However, he does have some regrets when it comes to missed opportunities that could've helped him educationally. Kennedy said that there should be more communication between

the departments and students. He said that only a "limited amount of people know about all activities in our major" because all of the information and/or opportunities aren't communicated to students. Aside from this, he had one piece of advice for current or incoming students: "There's a lot of free food on campus! Take advantage of it!"

Many things can be said about Jeff Kennedy. He's the kind of person that people are attracted to and curious about. He's very sharp, smart and an all around American who desires to serve his country. Everyone who knows Kennedy can probably agree on the fact that he is also always smiling, which makes him approachable. He likes to challenge people and prod their brains, making them think and expand their minds. He is very outspoken about his beliefs and passionate about the law. I know for a fact he will be missed at CSUSM, especially at the Office of Global Education (thanks for all those debate discussions/topics!).

Congratulations, Mr. Kennedy! You will do great things.

International student says farewell to CSUSM

BY GLORIA MAGALLANES
ASSISTANT OPINION EDITOR

Izumi Furusawa is currently an international student here at CSUSM. She hails from Tokyo, Japan where she started her academic studies before transferring to this university. She's been here for over two years studying Global Studies and will be participating in the commencement ceremony in May, although she'll be officially done in the fall.

Furusawa has always been interested in foreign countries because of her family's love of traveling. She was exposed to different cultures at a young age. It was this exposure that led her to come to America as well as her love of foreign cultures. "America has more diversity. This is diversity. Diversity means the world to me," Furusawa said.

Being a student at CSUSM is an advantage for Furusawa and her future career because American degrees are more valuable in Japan. However, all good things must come to an end. After she gets her degree she will have to return to her native country Japan even though she doesn't want to. "My goal is to come back here through a Japanese



Photo by Gloria Magallanes

company," Furusawa said.

Throughout the two years that she's been here, CSUSM and California life have become a part of her. She especially likes our campus and environment. "I love it here 'cause it's small enough. If I walk around on campus. I see people that I've said hi to before and eventually it's easier to befriend them."

Despite this experience, she's also realized that not every student is as warm. "I feel like American students are not interested in foreign culture. They don't care about internationals. In Japan, we are interested in international students, unlike here... here people don't care where I'm from," Furusawa said. Nonetheless, she admits that she has been impressed many times by locals and their ability to talk to strangers, something that is not

done in Tokyo. "I feel like people here are more kind. They are caring of others."

It's hard to envision a life without the people she has come to know and love. "I really, really like it here. I've met so many people from around the world. I've made many American friends," Furusawa said.

Overall, Furusawa is a fun, loving and adventurous person. She is full of life and laughter. There is no one else like her, she can't be replaced and because of this, I'm certain that she will be dearly missed on campus, especially by her friends, the ones that have become family. All these experiences are memories she will have and cherish for many years to come.

Congratulations, Izumi! Cheers to you and your accomplishments!

Hugo Pinales, takes risks and breaks boundaries

BY JASMINE DEMERS
NEWS EDITOR

Hugo Pinales is a graduating senior at CSUSM whose work ethic shines through in his unbreakable and dedicated presence on campus.

Pinales is in his fifth year at CSUSM and will be receiving his bachelor's degree in Communication with a minor in Spanish. He is currently the Student Building Lead for the University Student Union and, during his time at CSUSM, he has also been involved with Orientation Team (OTeam), the University Student Union Activities Board, the Peer Mentoring Program and Student Life and Leadership.

"CSUSM has really helped me grow as a human being through my involvement and my academics," said Pinales.

Through his hard work and dedication, Pinales has been able to make a long-lasting impact on the campus and his peers. "I hope that I am able to inspire students with different personalities to take the risk and find a special space on campus," he said. As graduation approaches, Pinales said that there are many things he is going to miss about CSUSM and that he has been able to learn so much from the

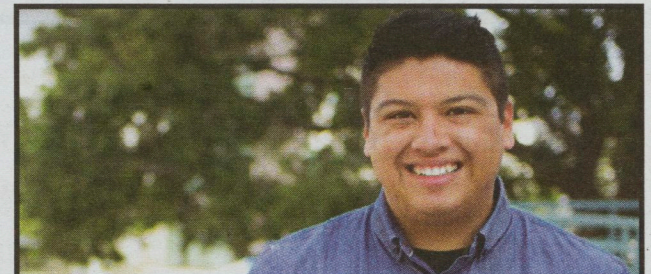


Photo courtesy of Hugo Pinales

people who surround him.

"I am going to miss all the staff, faculty and students that have made my experience at CSUSM memorable, especially the staff and students that I have [been] able to work with at the University Student Union. They have allowed me to gain new and rewarding experiences that have made me to be a better leader at CSUSM," he said. As a first generation college student, Pinales explained that he is very proud of himself for taking on challenges and finally making it to graduation. When asked who has inspired him to achieve these goals, he said he turned to his parents.

"My parents have always been my inspiration. Yes, it may sound cliché, but they have been extremely supportive during my five years at CSUSM. I see my parents as risk takers at a young age [because] they both came to the US for a better liv-

ing. Through dedication and a high work ethic, they both became naturalized citizens, fulfilling their number one goal," said Pinales. "They have taken risks and dealt with challenges in life, but their passion and hope to overcome these obstacles inspire me everyday to push forward with my goals and aspirations."

Pinales also plans to continue achieving his goals by continuing his education at San Diego State University.

"I have accepted the offer to attend San Diego State University for a two-year graduate program to receive a Masters of Arts in Postsecondary Educational Leadership with a

Specialization in Student Affairs. Also, I will be working for SDSU Residential Education." Pinales will take his memories and experiences from CSUSM and continue on his journey towards success.



The Cougar Chronicle bids farewell to Video Editor

By BEULAH SUPRIYA
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As Cal State San Marcos has finished with half of the current semester, the seniors are preparing for graduation, one of whom is Raymond Ravarra, the Cougar Chronicle's Video Editor for the fall of 2014. As his time here in Cal State is ending he shares a few memories and lessons he has learned along the way. Ravarra has been at Cal State for the past two years

studying a special major in mass media and visual arts. He came to work at the Cougar Chronicle as part of an internship. When asked about the experience he said, "the people were great, I miss them. The overall experience was good and got to build relationships". The reason for choosing mass media was a class he took at his second semester here at the school called video arts which increased his interest in Visual

media especially videography. There was also a need in the Church where he served for a good videographer as visual aids in this day and age have become an important way to communicate to people. He doesn't really feel pressured to get a job that will pay a lot of money as he trusts the Lord will provide,. Completing his final semester Ray Ravarra looks back on the effort which brought him to where he's at right

now, including a semester in which he took 19 credits. Giving some advice to others pursuing their degree he said, "Work hard and get it done. don't lose focus of what matters, we tend to define self by what we graduate in or what job we are in but can't find hope or contentment in that, seek something you can find full satisfaction in knowing that it will last." With Graduation approaching, Ray Ravarra

shares his future plans. He plans on working as graphic designer, marrying his girlfriend and later continuing his higher education by joining The Westminster seminary and eventually become a pastor. Now that this chapter in his life is coming to an end, he is excited about his new life ahead and not having to climb so many stairs each week! We wish Ray the very best in all his future endeavors.

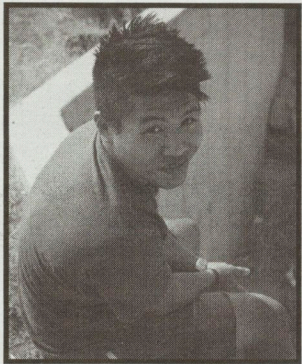


Photo courtesy of Ray Ravarra

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The 800-pound gorilla known as the NCAA

By ALHIJAZ ALTHICAFI
CONTRIBUTOR

Where does an 800 pound gorilla sit? Anywhere it wants to. Ba dump bump. It's one of the oldest, corniest jokes in the world....except when it's not funny. Because there is an 800pound gorilla on every college campus in the United States. We all know it's name. We all know what it does. But apparently there is nothing anyone wants to do about

it, especially acknowledge it. What is the name of the 800pound gorilla on campuses? The NCAA. The NCAA is blandly described in Wikipedia as being a "nonprofit" organization which generates "almost a billion" dollars a year, mostly from March Madness. It is also described as 'regulating' athletes in over 1200 institutions. Over the years, the NCAA has graciously added women, after it was forced to do so by Title IX. It has also been sued for violations of the Sherman AntiTrust Act

in its control over television rights. These are just two very small examples of the Gorilla's reach. There are many more. The weird thing is that everyone seems to know about it. As a college student and a sports enthusiast, I was very eager to see how many sports there were at college level. I was impressed at how well organized they were, how televised they were and how popular they were. But the more I found out about this organization, the NCAA, the more I began to see that there was something

very wrong going on. Athletes were generating huge amounts of revenue for their schools and they were compensated with scholarships. Fair enough, I thought, except that when I spoke to a few athletes I discovered that it was anything but fair. Athletes are forced to adhere to very professional schedules of practice and play. That means they cannot always take the classes they want because these may interfere with practice, for example. What? A studentathlete, who makes money for the school, which professionalizes their

sport, cannot take the classes they want? How is that fair? The more I looked, the worse it got. Studentathletes are completely under the control of the NCAA, and they have no recourse but to sue to get their rights. Recently, it was discovered that many of the more famous ones were having their likenesses used by sports companies to sell jerseys and other paraphernalia. No compensation was offered to them, of course, because they are not employees, but studentathletes, a designation that allows the schools to profit from their

work. A better name might be 'indentured servants.' "Today the NCAA Presidents Commission is . . . firmly committed to the neoplantation belief that the enormous proceeds from college games belong to the overseers (administrators) and supervisors (coaches). The plantation workers performing in the arena may only receive those benefits authorized by the overseers." The author? Former President of the NCAA, Walter Byers, who has no problem describing a gorilla when he sees one.


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Concerns about VPA major

By VICTORIA RICHMOND
CONTRIBUTOR

Enrollment for fall semester has already begun, and as I was enrolling in classes I started to have concerns because I realized there are not enough classes listed in my Visual Arts Major and Dance Minor. I was not happy to see that there weren't a lot of available classes with handson art besides Drawing II and there were no dance classes except one above 300. This does not help me complete my degree requirements in the timeframe that I have placed for myself. I want to graduate by spring 2016, but it is hard for me to fit all my classes in that I need. I feel that these classes are very important because we need to experience art physically. I have been taking lecture classes for the past 4 years and I was hoping to do more studio and dance classes here at CSUSM since I did see them offer these visual arts classes when I enrolled as a transfer. Now that I am enrolled, that perception has drastically changed and I am concerned about my future goals and trying to fit it all. A number of classes on




Photo by Chris Morales

School of Arts has expanded its degree programs.

campus have been eliminated for future semesters. Recently, it has been addressed that this issue is across the board in all colleges on campus, not just VPA. The School of Arts was just officially opened. My expectations in what that meant are that classes would be provided for me to pursue a career in arts and the faculty would be available to help me grow in my field of study. I am also very sad that they didn't hire Melissa Adao back for the Fall 2015 year as the hiphop teacher. That will be a loss for CSUSM. I have been taking hiphop classes for years; even though she only taught a one credit class, she is amazing. How she can teach us so

much in 50 minutes we basically learned an entire score each class period. There are so many talented art students at CSUSM and many complain about the same issues I'm seeing. If I had known about these circumstances before, I would have accepted my approval to attend SDSU and I probably would not have chosen to come to this school. The convenience of the campus location does not make up for the inconvenience of me not graduating on time. I also have to worry about completing my degree before my time lapse for my language requirements for graduation. That is a whole other concern that drastically affects my education plan.

Chairwoman of American Indian Student Alliance leads by example



Photo courtesy of Anne Hall

BY KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Ernestina Martinez is a devoted student leader who is passionate about social justice and Native rights.

Martinez, a Communications major with a focus on public relations and journalism, has been at CSUSM for two years after transferring from Mount San Jacinto College. She has

been actively involved with American Indian Student Alliance (AISA), the California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center (CICSC), Public Relations Club, Tukwut Leadership program, Lead Retreat and with social justice actions on campus.

Martinez's current leadership positions include being the Chairwoman of AISA, the Outreach Specialist for Public Relations Club and a Student Researcher at the CICSC.

Martinez has thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities that have come from being involved on campus. One of her favorite programs was through Tukwut Leadership, which consisted of visiting Mountain Shadows, a place where handicapped and differently abled individuals are able to live in a safe, family-like environment. Participants

created a mural and artwork with the residents there.

Through her involvement with AISA and the CICSC, Martinez has been active in a lot of events centered around helping Native youth.

"The local Native youth come down to campus or we go to their school. We talk to them about college and give them a tour of the [CICSC] center," Martinez said. "We have lunch with them and they ask us questions. It is a comforting place to go for the local youth and shows them that they can do it too."

Martinez said that the CICSC in particular has been instrumental to her growth as a student and activist. She said that Tribal Liaison, Tishmall Turner, informed students in the center about getting grants and kept them informed on when scholarship applications needed to be

completed. Dr. Joely Proud-fit, the Director of the CICSC and Associate Professor of Sociology and Native Studies, encouraged her to take Native Studies courses and helped her become more connected with her Native roots.

"The center has been a home away from home. Taking classes like Native Woman Activists, Native American Media and Films and Native American Communities have really influenced the way I see things," Martinez said. "Being a Student Researcher at the center has gotten me to do a lot of research too. We worked hard on putting together information for our annual film festival and researching who could be part of it and what movies should be shown."

Another highlight of Martinez's time at CSUSM has been her involvement in

the Beyond the Stereotype campaign, a 13 month long project to raise awareness about cultural appropriation and cultural sensitivity. Martinez was involved with this through her roles with the CICSC, AISA and PR Club. The campaign culminated with the unveiling of the posters currently on display in Kellogg Library.

She has also been involved with BSU's "Hands Up, Don't Shoot!" protest. "AISA wanted to support that campaign because not only does it happen to the Black community, but sexual assault, issues with education and police stopping affects us too," she said.

As a Navajo woman and the first person in her family to go to college, Martinez is proud of her heritage and where she comes from. She credits her biggest

influences as Dr. Proud-fit, Dr. Fredi Avalos, Karen Guzmán and her parents.

Her goals after graduation are to take a year off to work, and then apply for Master's programs in either Communications or Sociology. She is interested in applying to SDSU or somewhere in Northern California.

Martinez said that her involvement has permanently shaped her views of the world around her.

"Every time I thought of college, I thought it meant a lot of schoolwork and getting involved in a sorority and that is it," she said. "But through my work on the film festivals, we have met a lot of actors, comedians, Native activists and worked with other organizations to bring things together. I am motivated to get out there in the community and make a difference."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Financial aid's financial burden on one student

BY ANNE HALL
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A Letter to the Editor was submitted Fall 2014 by Alexis Santiago, a Human Development major at CSUSM, in order to help her peers in finding awareness of challenges she's had to face dealing with Financial Aid and trying to make it through paying for college on her own.

Santiago is a third year student on campus and works hard to submit her FAFSA on time. Like years prior, she communicated regularly with the Financial Aid Department to make sure that her paperwork was submitted properly and on time. In this particular case,

Santiago brought her financial aid paperwork into the office directly on July 21, 2014.

"The copies were stamped and dated and the employee working specifically told me that it would take approximately seven to ten business days to process. On August 5, my status was still showing up on my To-Do List," Santiago said.

When calling to follow up, Santiago was greeted with a notice that Financial Aid "did not have" her papers and the campus fee was due the very next day.

"That was \$900 I did not have," Santiago said. "I was put on hold several times throughout the process while I found the papers I had previously submitted and drove to Kinko's and faxed the papers..." Santiago said. "But

little did I know, I sent it to the Cashier's Office and not the Financial Aid Office (which are directly across the room from one another)...so the Financial Aid Office transferred me to Cashiers to have me ask them to walk the paperwork to the Financial Aid Office for me themselves."

Santiago was left without her financial aid awards for five weeks after this event and was given the run around every time she contacted the office to get an update on the status of her awards.

"I was shocked to see that this was my first year not receiving any grants...a representative finally took the time to explain to me why I wasn't receiving any grants and how to apply for loans and what I needed to do," Santiago said.

Santiago was not approved

for loans and has not received any type of financial aid since. "I've numbed myself to accept it," she said.

"Being the first generation in my family to attend college also dampens my hope that universities, especially my own, are not accommodating to those who don't have affluent college-graduate parents, leaving us to feel guilty about not knowing the loan differentiations," Santiago said. "This feeds into the social patriarchy for those who don't necessarily need the grants, or even take out a loan through their college career to strive and have less stress (especially monetary stress), and those of us who are educated ourselves to better ourselves and our futures feeling helpless and unimportant."

Santiago has worked various jobs in order to make her way through school, like many other students on campus. Because of the expenses caused by paying for her college experience, she, like many of her peers, has resorted to continue living with her parents to avoid extra expenses while in school. Even if she was to be approved for Financial Aid, as she was in the past, it would not change her personal life situation in terms of relying on her family and working to subsidize the expense of paying for college.

School expenses include tuition, added fees, books, school supplies, personal and transportation expenses, as well as cost of living. Paying these figures or putting ourselves into deeper debt

by accepting student loans to pay for the expense later in life seems far less appealing since the promise of employment and careers immediately upon separation from college have been lacking over the past decade.

Employment rates have risen but much of that work is parttime and temporary through a large number of corporations including Amazon, The Department of Veterans Affairs and much more. Promising employment appears to exist in fields focused on technology, web development/design, software development, finance, various medical fields and environmental engineering. Sadly, CSUSM isn't the greatest campus to attend in regards to seeking out futures within these fields.

The Cougar Chronicle says goodbye to Opinion Editor

BY TIFFANY TRENT
STAFF WRITER

Noelle Friedberg is graduating magna cum laude with a degree in Literature and Writing and an emphasis in Writing.

She has attended CSUSM for the last two years after transferring from Mira-Costa College and has written for The Cougar Chronicle since 2013, moving her way up from staff writer to Opinion Editor.

When Friedberg is not busy with school, the newspaper or her job as a nanny, she enjoys spending quality

time with her family, friends and her boyfriend Tim who will also be graduating from CSUSM this May with a degree in Global Studies and is currently studying abroad

One of her favorite quotes is from Henry David Thoreau who said, "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

in Israel until June. In her free time, Friedberg loves taking photographs. She skillfully captures the simplistic loveliness of whatever she is photographing, whether it be loved ones, objects or nature. She has a refreshing appreciation for beauty and nature and takes joy in the little things. She is able to see

magnificence in the ordinary.

One of her favorite quotes is from Henry David Thoreau who said, "It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see."

Her other hobbies include reading books of all kinds (although books by Donald Miller are amongst her favorites), spending afternoons at quaint coffee shops and going on picnics at Elfin Forest or Buena Creek Gardens.

Friedberg is an extremely talented and accomplished writer. She regularly writes for SHARE San Marcos, a local community publication.

Upon graduating this May, Friedberg plans on pursuing a career in editing and writing. Her writing is simultaneously both concise and expressive, which is a rare ability. She breathes life into her writing, transferring her passion and skill into the words she puts on the page or screen.

During newspaper meetings I have had the pleasure of observing her in her element. She is animated and happy and eager to help staff writers however she can while being open to new ideas and thoughts. Friedberg is wonderful at making sure her section reaches its full potential while still having fun. She is smart, funny, dedicated and sweet and makes friends wherever she goes.

During her time at CSUSM and The Cougar Chronicle, Friedberg has left a lasting impression with her hard work, kindness, sincerity and talent. She has a beautiful, effervescent soul and has blessed those around her and will be dearly missed here at school and at The Chronicle. The newspaper will not be the same without you. Congratulations, dear Noelle! We are all so very proud of you and your achievements!



Photo courtesy of Noelle Friedberg

We will miss you, Noelle!

Tricia Alcid, dedicated leader, student and friend

BY LEXY PEREZ

ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

College can normally be considered a time where students may face their most stressful moments. While college brings a heavy workload to students, for Tricia Alcid it was the hard work that made her enjoy her college experience much more and changed her into the person she is today.

As the semester comes to an end, Alcid is doing nothing more but anticipating her approaching graduation that she has waited four years. She says, "I feel nervous of course, but in reality, I am brimming with anticipating and adrenaline."

This will be a beginning of a new chapter of my life."

Studying Psychology, Alcid explains that she did more than just study and get good grades. She found it important to be as active in every school activity and function as she could. "Over the course of four years on campus, I have been a part of the Civility Campaign, Alpha Omicron Pi, Gamma Sigma Alpha, Order of Omega, Psychology Student Organization, Psi Chi International Honor Society, Golden Key International Honor Society, SLL Peer Mentoring Program, ASI Board of Directors, Active Minds, Kamalayan Alliance, LGBTQA Club, and Circle K International," Alcid

said as she laughs at her long list of credentials.

If her heavy involvement wasn't apparent enough, Alcid volunteers year-end as much as she could as well.

"I have volunteered with the ASI Community Centers, and the Hope and Wellness Center. I have been part of our IITS and SLL Cross-Cultural Center on campus. I have had the honor of being a research assistant for two psychology research labs on campus, along with volunteering for Lightbridge Hospice for my PSYC 495 Field Experience class. I know I have listed a lot, but I just like getting involved!" said Alcid.

For Alcid, being involved on campus is what made her experience so great. "I love

doing community events and school events. I feel that it builds community and camaraderie when I am able to volunteer and help with events and groups on campus." Not only does being involved get you connected to your campus, but Alcid believes it can benefit in growing as a person, "Getting involved is truly the best way to develop interpersonal skills and build relationships with others, and I feel that even getting involved with one thing on campus helps build long-lasting relationships."

With years of being a dedicated student and devoting so much time and energy to our campus Alcid believes that her hard work was worth it, for it helped her realize her potential as a leader.

She is thankful for CSUSM for providing her with more than just an education, "I have met people that I feel are closer than my own family, and meeting these have changed my life for the better. They have been my support through the hard times, the laughter in the good times, and I would not trade these priceless



Photo by Ahmbra Boudreaux

Alcid and friend participating at Pride Fest in April.

memories for the world."

Dreaming of being a positive influence on individuals, Alcid foresees herself as trying to add some positivity to people struggling with their lives and stress, "I have realized that helping people is only the tip of the iceberg. Rather, I want to be able to empower others to help themselves, which is one of the greatest things you can give to another person" After graduation, Alcid plans on joining the Peace Corps and aims to apply for graduate programs for social work and psychology research.

While she says she will miss college for helping remind her what day it is, she

is ready to embark on the next chapter in her journey. Attempting to spread a last bit of positivity to future students, Alcid says, "Don't be afraid of putting yourself out there, along with not getting discouraged!"

Over these past 4 years, I have worked and involved with many organizations, but I have also faced rejection and dejection over these 4 years. Know that rejection helps build character, and that how you work with that rejection and dejection helps you build confidence and skills for future endeavors. Moving forward confidently after failure is one of the ways to grow into a future leader."

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Q&A with School of Arts Senior Heidi Garcia

BY FAITH ORCINO

A&E EDITOR

Cougar Chronicle: What is the degree you will be graduating with?

Heidi Garcia: Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts Emphasis in Music and Minors in Video Production and Women's Studies.

CC: What is your musical specialty? How long have you been perfecting your craft? Did you have to overcome some difficulties along the way?

HG: I am a singer; it's weird to call myself that, but I have been singing since I discovered who Selena (Quintanilla, not Gomez) was. It wasn't until I was in middle school that I decided to get involved in choir. As an artist, I do have my doubts about what it means to be a singer sometimes. I love singing as a hobby and occasional performances because I love the music family that gets created in any ensemble I have ever had the privilege to be a part of. As a career, however, I fear I will lose the love and passion I have for music (it's a small doubt but there). Nevertheless, I will continue to do what I love.

CC: How was your time here in CSUSM? Did you start here as a freshman or transfer from another school? As being part of the inaugural graduating class of the School of Art, has there been changes in the quality of the School?

HG: I started here at CSUSM as a freshman. In all my five years here, I



Photo courtesy of Heidi Garcia

have had the honor to watch our university grow in size and in numbers. I love this school because we are constantly evolving. Our music department alone has come a long way, with the recent addition of a Music Major coming this fall. Because our university is still fairly young, we, as a community, have the privilege to be a part of CSUSM history. In my five years here, I have seen the SBSB building, the USU, the Veterans Center, the Quad, the Health Center, as well as many other things come to life.

CC: What do you have in plan for your postgraduate future?

HG: I love music, I love singing; it's my escape from reality, my Zen; however through my minors in Video Production and Women's Studies I have discovered something empowering. The power of media and how that affects our society. In high school, I always struggled with my body image, it wasn't until I took my first Women's Studies class that I felt empowered to not feel ashamed for not fitting the

beauty standards society has structured for women. Therefore, it wasn't until recently that I decided to go back to school next year to get my Masters in Fine Arts and a PhD in Gender or Women's Studies, so that I can focus on creating videos of some kind to promote body positivity in young girls. Singing is my passion, but children are our future. So I say why not go back to school? Why not make a difference? Why not?

CC: Is there anyone (or a number of people) you would like to thank or give recognition?

HG: As a woman of faith I'd like to thank God. As a first generation Latina to graduate I'd like to thank my mom for raising me as a single mother, my sisters for always pushing me to keep going, my brother and his wife for supporting me, my friends and coworkers for always being there for me, as well as Dr. Ching-Ming Cheng, Dr. Pamela Redela and Professor Kristine Diekmann for encouraging me to continue with my studies. From the bottom of my heart thank you.

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

School of Arts Senior Quincy Lawson

BY FAITH ORCINO

A&E EDITOR

Cougar Chronicle: What is the degree you will be graduating with?

Quincy Lawson: Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts Emphasis in Music

What is your musical specialty? How long have you been perfecting your craft? Did you have to overcome some difficulties along the way?

QL: "Drums. I have been playing since 6th grade in concert band and then marching band in high school. A difficulty I had to overcome was being a college athlete as well. Basketball took up most of my time and was a huge distraction from music. With practices every day and traveling every week for games I missed a lot of class and practice time drumming."

How was your time here in CSUSM? Did you start here as a freshman or transfer from another school? As being part of the inaugural graduating

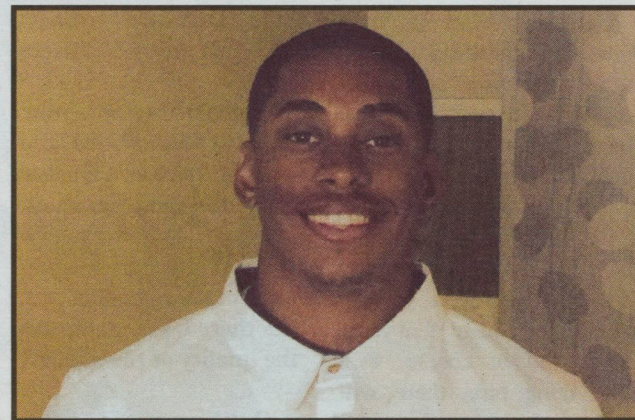


Photo courtesy of Quincy Lawson

Lawson will perform 5:30- 7:00 p.m., May 7 at the Old California Coffee House

class of the School of Art, has there been changes in the quality of the School?

QL: My time at CSUSM has been great. I started at Loyola Marymount university (LMU) for basketball and transferred here also for basketball. I feel the quality of the school is always improving. The music program is some what new and is constantly getting better each semester. I really enjoy being a part of it.

What do you have in plan for your postgraduate future?

QL: After I graduate I plan to become an emt then enter the fire academy and

then further down the line become a firefighter. I also plan to continue playing. Music will always be a part of my life no matter what I will be doing in the future.

Is there anyone (or a number of people) you would like to thank or give recognition?

QL: I am thankful for all of the support from the performing arts staff: Dr Mtafiti Imara, Ron Jesse and Dr. Bill Bradbury as well as the CSUSM jazz band and vocal ensemble. Also a special thanks to my band members who will be playing in my capstone with me: Andrew Velasco, Caleb Roner, Alex Caratti and Colin Hagan.

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

School of Arts Senior Mariela Dieguez

By FAITH ORCINO
A&E EDITOR

Cougar Chronicle: What is the degree you will be graduating with?

Mariela Dieguez: Bachelor in Visual and Performing Arts with an emphasis in Music and a minor in Biology.

CC: What is your musical specialty? How long have you been perfecting your craft? Did you have to overcome some difficulties along the way?

MD: I have been singing since I was 8 and was in various choirs growing up. I never thought about pursuing music as a career, until I got to college.

CC: How was your time here in CSUSM? Did you

start here as a freshman or transferred from another school?

MD: I was a Biology major as a freshman. There were various events that drove me to pursue a form of art over science. At the end of my senior year of high school, my father developed kidney failure and consequently was unable to work. In effect, we were left without a home. For a year we lived with family who helped us get back on our feet. I started college and was working part time. Two years into college I was frustrated and exhausted, both emotionally, physically and spiritually. My father was trying to adjust to a new lifestyle as much as we were as a family and this took a great toll on me. I was so focused on helping my family and providing that I forgot how to take care of



Photo courtesy of Mariela Dieguez
Dieguez will perform 7 p.m. May 9 at Arts 111

myself. I was growing up too fast too quickly. There came a breaking point where my depression could not be contained. Besides it being a physical feeling of tiredness and exhaustion, I felt I was missing a basic emotion: happiness. Nothing made me happy. In examining my life up to that point, I reevaluated

who I was, what I loved and how I wanted to live. I soon realized I was always in choir even at my most desperate time and that's when I knew, I should just give it a try. What do I have to lose? I thought to myself, and I have not looked back at that choice. I am and will always be a student.

As being part of the inaugural graduating class of the School of Art, has there been changes in the quality of the School?

MD: It is exciting to see the School of Art grow as I have grown and it will only continue to grow more and more. I hope to see more students interested in the mu-

sic this school has to offer.

What do you have in plan for your postgraduate future?

MD: I plan to apply for grad school to study ethnomusicology and teach in the near future.

Is there anyone (or a number of people) you would like to thank or give recognition?

MD: I would like to thank the numerous teachers that have shown me more than I had expected. Dr. Mtafiti Imara, Dr. Ching Ming-Cheng, Bill Bradbury, Mary Jaeb and all the musical friends I made along the way which I have grown so close with, and my family and friends outside my college life who have supported me in my little journey I like to call life.

MUSICIAN SPOTLIGHT

School of Arts Senior Caleb Carter

By FAITH ORCINO
A&E EDITOR

Cougar Chronicle: What is the degree you will be graduating with?

Caleb Carter: Bachelor of Arts in Visual and Performing Arts Emphasis in Music

Cougar: What is your musical specialty? How long have you been perfecting your craft? Did you have to overcome some difficulties along the way?

CC: I'd say that would have to be guitar performance. I've been playing guitar for almost ten years now. And of course, with everything else, there will always be obstacles you have to overcome. One that I've had would be this existential crisis I had about a week ago where I was having thoughts like, 'Am I just a musician?' I love music and everything about be-

ing a musician, but is that all I am? Like, I was thinking about what life would be like if I pursued a "real job" and not a career pejoratively deemed a hobby. I'm past that now though, because I realized the reason I'm pursuing music is bigger than that. It's more of a calling than a choice. Or maybe I'm crazy. Either way, I'm happy.

Cougar: How was your time here in CSUSM? Did you start here as a freshman or transferred from another school? As being part of the inaugural graduating class of the School of Art, has there been changes in the quality of the School?

CC: I have mixed feelings about my time spent here, haha. I'll elaborate later. I came in as a freshman, but I did try transferring out to Berklee (College of Music) and UCLA during my second year, but that didn't work

out. The only reason I wanted to transfer out is because this school is too new; the music program wasn't quite where I expected it to be. Mind you, there's nothing wrong with the professors. Absolutely nothing wrong, they're all great and possess skill and talent that I could only hope to have someday. It's just that this school is new and the music program (not sure if I could speak on the whole SofA) hasn't exactly been established.

There's a significant amount of students that don't know that we have a jazz ensemble, let alone a music program. We just need more students (and serious ones at that) to create a higher demand, which would eventually lead to more funding and overall support. But that comes with time. The school will be at that level someday.

Cougar: What do you have in plan for your postgraduate future?

CC: I plan on grinding. Like, hella grind. This music thing is going to work out, but it takes so much work. A lot more than a lot of people are willing to put in. I'm going to make some lifestyle changes, like: practicing four hours a day instead of two, making beats every single day, picking up two jobs so that I can finally move to LA, etc. I know that's a fairly vague answer, but there are so many things that I want to do with music career wise, it's hard just to choose one thing. Why not do them all at once? I know I'm capable, but like I said earlier, I have to put in WORK.

Cougar: Is there anyone (or a number of people) you would like to thank or give recognition?

CC: Everyone. Really, everyone. I mean, I'd love to give thanks to my mom and my sisters, Dr. Imara, Dr. Bradbury, Dr. Cheng,

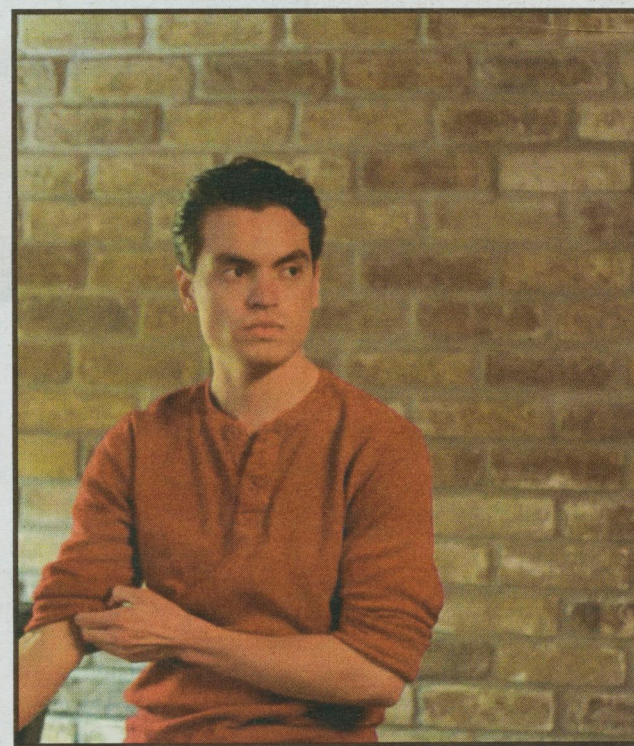


Photo courtesy of Caleb Carter

Rendall, Kyle, David, Chelsea, Audrey, but the list goes on and on. I'd just keep it simple and say everyone,

because I truly am thankful of everyone I've met along the way. And those people should know who they are.

Student A: "Farewell" BY Faith Orcino

