



FROM THE STAFF



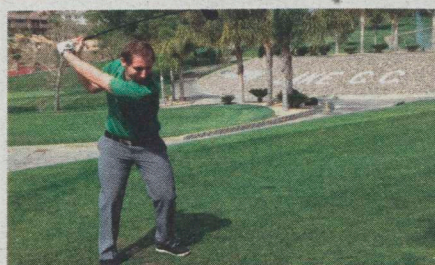
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Commencement sparks new beginning for CSUSM graduates

BY KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Class of 2014 is a group of students that reflect the diversity that CSUSM has to offer.

Office of Communications Public Information Officer, Christine Vaughan, provided the campus' official data for the demographics that make up the graduating class. Between the four commencement ceremonies on May 16 and 17, there will be 2,649 students, not including credential students, graduating from CSUSM. 52.1 percent of these students will be the first person in their family to earn a bachelor's degree. 146 graduates are student-veterans and eight graduates are ACE Scholars (a program for former foster youth), both statistics the largest amount



Last year's graduates celebrate their last year at CSUSM. Photos courtesy of Christine Vaughan.

in CSUSM history. According to Vaughan, the most awarded degree this year will be a "Bachelor of Science in Business Administration," the second most common being a "Bachelor of Arts in Human Development."

Graduation ceremonies will take place on either

Friday or Saturday depending on the individual's college. On Friday, May 16, the scheduled ceremonies are for the College of Business Administration at 10:30 a.m. and the College of Education, Health and Human Services at 4:30 p.m. On Saturday, May 17, the Col-

lege of Humanities, Arts, Behavioral and Social Sciences will take place at 9:30 a.m., followed by the College of Science and Mathematics at 3:00 p.m. According to Vaughan, the largest ceremony is CHABSS, followed by CEHHS, CoBA and CSM. She encourages social me-

dia users to join the celebration online using the hashtag #csusm14.

The Grand Marshalls for the graduation ceremonies will be Matt Walsh from CHABSS, Tim Hoh from CSM, Mary Green from COEHHS and Sarah Lane from COBA.

This year's graduating class is comprised of seniors that have contributed to countless student orgs., publications, committees and departments. From the ASI Board of Directors, graduates include President Matt Walsh, VP of External Affairs Arthur Silverstein III and VP of Operations Cipriano Vargas. Graduates also members of The Cougar Chronicle editorial staff; Sports Editor Justin Donner, Features Editor Amanda Lenox, Opinion and Copy Editor Lauren Hammond, Design Editor Anne Hall and Heart Beat Columnist Rachel Gallego.

Congratulations to the Class of 2014 from The Cougar Chronicle. We wish you nothing but success and had a great time with you this year!

Civility Campaign honors Champions and ICONS of 2014



This year honored outstanding members of the student body, faculty and staff. Photos courtesy of Miguel Magana.

BY MIGUEL MAGANA
STAFF WRITER

The Third Annual Civility Celebration took place on April 30, a celebration in which members of the California State University San Marcos community are honored for their countless acts of care respect and empathy.

The Celebration started with Associate Dean of Students, Gregory Toya restating the Civility mission statement and pledge: As a member of the CSUSM com-

munity, I will conduct myself with care, respect and empathy, while acknowledging the culture and humanity of others.

Toya then happily announced the growth between the Civility Campaign with Student Life & Leadership and the Cross-Cultural Center.

The Civility Celebration recognized past events hosted by the Campaign. These events help the CSUSM community understand who we go to school with and their culture to eliminate discrimination and hate.

Then the Civility Champions were recognized. These Champions were nominated because they live out the Civility Mission. Some words which described these Champions are: polite, safe to be around, pleasure to be with. These Champions are recognized for being involved in issues such as social justice, environmental justice and for being an ally to women.

This years Civility ICONS (Initiating Civil Opportunities Now) are students and faculty that are our everyday superheroes, from giving someone a ride to school to

making one feel welcomed.

The faculty, staff and students being honored were Dr. Fredi Avalos, Melanie Chu, Kaja Dunn, Terri Metzger, June Trudel, Marie Parrish, Peter Vu, Kevin Adson, Josh Byrd, Jesse Grajeda, Karen Guzman, Rosalie Michaud, Faith Orcino, Ariel Plaza, Jerry Pham, Dominica Rannieri, Nicki Croly, Lia Mauga, Emily Miller and Sonia Perez.

One extraordinary student is Rosalie Michaud by an anonymous classmate who had a bad day resolved by Michard. Ms. Anonymous

had left class and crying in the stall. Michard followed her and refused to leave until they talked. Ms. Anonymous tried to regain her breath from crying and hyperventilating to talk to Michard. Michard stayed outside her restroom stall saying, "I have two dry shoulders to cry on." As the celebration approached an end, guest speaker and ICON, Dr. Laura de Ghetaldi stressed the importance of Civility. Dr. Ghetaldi then talked about how she tries her best to teach civility in all of her classes. Being a victim to race riots,

zebra murders and helping after the Columbine Shooting, Dr. Ghetaldi explained a part of being so connected to the Civility Campaign is because being a victim "never leaves your soul."

This year's Civility Celebration did an excellent job honoring its nominees and reminding the audience what Civility is all about. To learn more about the Civility Champions and Icons visit the CSUSM Civility website at: <https://www.csusm.edu/civility/index.html>.



Cougar Chronicle graduation message from the President



On behalf of the California State University San Marcos administration, faculty and staff, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, the Class of 2014.

You have reached an incredible milestone in your life and your commencement ceremony celebrates your hard work and achievement in completing a rigorous and demanding course of study. You should be proud of what you have achieved, as should all those who have supported you in your journey.

You have each taken a different path to get to this moment. Some of you navigated through college full time; others have taken a longer route, combining work and family obligations with your academic pursuits. Nearly 50 percent of you are the first in your families to earn a four-year degree.

You are veterans, former

foster youth, non-traditional students, underrepresented students. You are what make Cal State San Marcos such a unique and vibrant university.

I sincerely commend you on your accomplishments. Your reaching commencement demonstrates your fortitude, your resolve, your determination.

You exemplify the best that CSUSM has to offer in our graduates and I hope that you will recall your time here fondly. As alumni, you — the Class of 2014 — will join an extraordinary group of individuals who represent hope, creativity and a true passion for lifelong learning. I am delighted that you chose Cal State San Marcos and I wish you all the very best in your futures.

Karen Haynes, Ph.D.
President

Senior Farewell

Graduating from Cal State University San Marcos

BY VIKTORIA PANTELEYEVA
GRADUATING SENIOR

Switching from Ukrainian alma mater to an American one was a smooth transition for me.

As a philologist of English and Turkish, I was interested in finding an optimal major, which could serve as a fitting vehicle for my linguistic

abilities. To my great joy, I discovered that CSUSM offered a Global Business Management (GBM) option for business majors. Not giving it a second thought, I enrolled in this option. By minoring in Political Science, I upped the ante. I'm not going to single out any professors I encountered in CSUSM. Nonetheless, I feel

obligated to say that all professors in the GBM option are on par with PSCI professors, despite having different pedagogical styles, left their indelible mark on my mind. Being culturally proud and yet having cosmopolitan outlook has always been my forte. In fact, my life philosophy sums up in the words of the most revered Ukrain-

ian poet, Taras Shevchenko, who wrote:

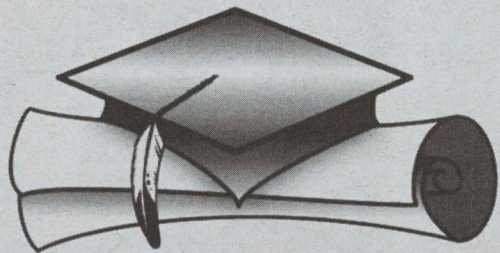
Learn, study and discern,
And learn from foreigners.
But don't disdain your own.

For these reasons, I felt that being a GBMer will help satiate my curiosity about other cultures. Joining Global Business Management Association and becoming its officer brought me closer to

like-minded people. Besides, I got an opportunity to widen my social circle by meeting a plethora of international students. I still keep in touch with a lot of them. As GBMers we get encouraged to participate in a study abroad program to widen our cultural horizons, and a number of my friends took up this opportunity and ended up truly benefitting from it. As for me, I chose to culturally

enrich myself by traveling independently during last summer to a string of Eastern and Western European countries. After this prolonged travelling, I realized that I selected the right vocation for me. As an afterword, I'd like to say that being the first Ukrainian in my family to study in the US, I'm truly honored to be a graduate from CSUSM.

Congratulations



American Indian Graduates

*Education is the path
to self-determination*

The California Indian Culture and Sovereignty Center

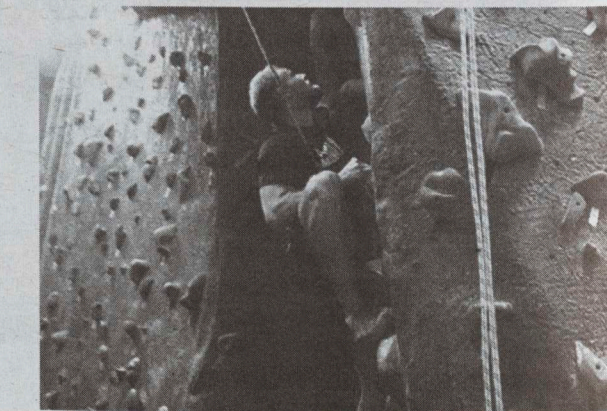
Senior Farewell

A bittersweet goodbye

BY ROSS EDMUNDS
GRADUATING SENIOR

It is needless to say that my time at CSU San Marcos has been a time to cherish, and to be cliché, the best time of my life. Day one at Cal State "Stair Master" began with struggling to summit the 11 staircases to make it to Markstein Building on time, and I would wonder why on earth I chose to go to a school built into the side of a mountain.

Three years later, I look forward to that same mountain, and have raised the ante by running Double Peak twice a week with Dr. Nessler and Dr. Newcomer. Running with them has become one of the highlights of my week, with every step I realize how blessed I am to have professors who not only care about academic excellence but also physical well being.



Ross Edmunds dominating the indoor rock climbing wall.

However, if it weren't for Dr. Astorino, I would have never been able to have the college experience that I did. Dr. A has pushed me to excel within our department, to do things I have never dreamed of doing. Without his guidance, I would have never been able to compete in research competitions or present research at ACSM's National Conference this May in Florida. His mentorship has opened the doors to being a Research

Assistant and Teachers Assistant in the Kinesiology Human Performance Lab where I try to pass on my enthusiasm to every new class of students.

The fun I've had at CSUSM is immeasurable and it is a bittersweet moment to see graduation on the horizon, because it signals an end of days. Days that, without a doubt, have been the time of my life.

Senior Farewell

Thank you Cal State San Marcos

By LAUREN HAMMOND
OPINION EDITOR

The first couple years of my undergraduate studies had been characterized by uncertainty, dread and a lack of self-awareness.

Being the first of my family to attend college, I had little understanding of what to expect. Before attending Cal State University San Marcos, I spent one year at a private university in Oregon and two and a half years at a junior college here in Southern California. During that time, I felt a strong disconnect from my peers, my professors and the campuses altogether. This sense of disengagement left me with little motivation and I feared for my future.

When coming to San Marcos I had only one intention in mind and that was to earn a bachelor's degree in Literature and Writing, with a concentration in Writing. However, after settling in at the university I found my previous academic detachment lift, as I was greeted with many unique and life-changing opportunities.

In my second semester at CSUSM, in the spring of

2013, I was given the opportunity to serve as a research assistant to Dr. Linda Pershing, Professor of Folklore and Cultural Studies here on campus. In that time, several other students and I began collecting research to form the new Harry Potter class that opened this semester.

My involvement in the project not only strengthened my skills as a researcher, cultural analyst and writer, but it also helped me to form a strong connection and devotion to our campus. Serving as a research assistant only furthered my opportunities, as I was able to attend the annual American Folklore Society conference in October of last year as an undergraduate representative of CSUSM.

My attendance at the conference was an amazing experience, to say the least and it gave me the opportunity to meet with academic scholars, which further inspired my ambition to write.

As a CSUSM Cougar, I have also been given the aid necessary to develop my own voice as a writer: giving my life a new sense of purpose. In my time here, I have learned that writing helps me

connect with others. I remain enthusiastic about my love of literature and composition and for the past year have been working as a writing consultant at the Writing Center.

This activity not only allows me to exercise my own talents and interests in writing, but it also enables me to strengthen the writing skills of students as well as to bond with others on campus.

Working as the Opinion and Copy editor for the school paper has been another uplifting experience at CSUSM. My initial interest in becoming an editor was to help diversify my own writing skills. However, as time has progressed, not only my love of written language has strengthened, but I have also found an incredibly unique bond with my fellow editors and our staff writers.

This opportunity has given me a new outlook on what it means to be a successful college student. Achieving good grades is one thing, but making positive connections with others is what really makes a college experience worthwhile.

Ultimately, I would just like to take this time, before

Saying Goodbye

By AMANDA LENOX
FEATURES EDITOR

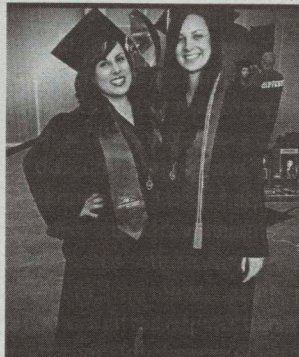


Photo provided by Lauren Hammond.

Amanda Lenox (Left) and Lauren Hammond (Right) enjoying Grad Fest together.

departing from our beloved campus, to thank all of my fellow students, the professors and staff of the Literature and Writing Department, and all of CSUSM's campus advisors for helping to shape the woman that I am today.

I would be lost if it weren't for all of the love, respect and encouragement everyone on campus has shown me. I look forward to furthering my educational career and cannot wait to see where all of the campus' support will take me.

As a sixth year senior, you long for graduation day when you have finally earned your degree and school is over. But as the day is nearing, it only makes me wish I could spend more time with friends here at CSUSM.

I started at California State University, San Marcos in August 2008 and the campus has definitely changed since then. I was able to see the building of the Parking Structure, the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building, the Quad and the brand new University Student Union. As the school has changed and grown, I now realize that I have grown as well.

Cal State San Marcos has offered me a great education and I have learned so much from all of my professors. I have made great friendships that I know will last a lifetime.

Before I leave, I have a few words of advice for CSUSM students:

1. Be proud of the work that you do. There may be certain

occasions where you procrastinated and didn't put too much effort into a research paper. Don't make a habit of it. Instead, submit your best work and be proud of the effort you put into it.

2. Get involved. It took me awhile to realize the importance of getting involved but there will be so many great people that you might miss the chance of meeting if you don't.

3. Don't be too hard on yourself when you fail. There might be that one class that you just don't get, for me that would be anything that involves math or science. If you don't do well, don't worry. It's a lesson that you learn. Just try harder the next time.

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST:

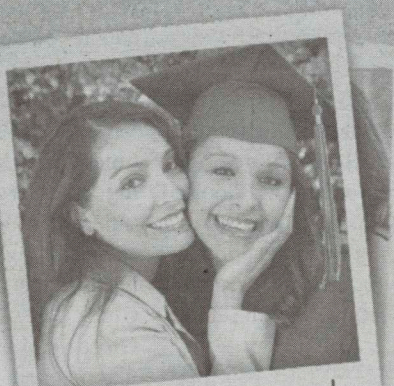
4. Have fun. College is an adventure. I got six years of it. Some of you may get five or four. But there is a time limit; the fun doesn't last forever. So cherish the memories.

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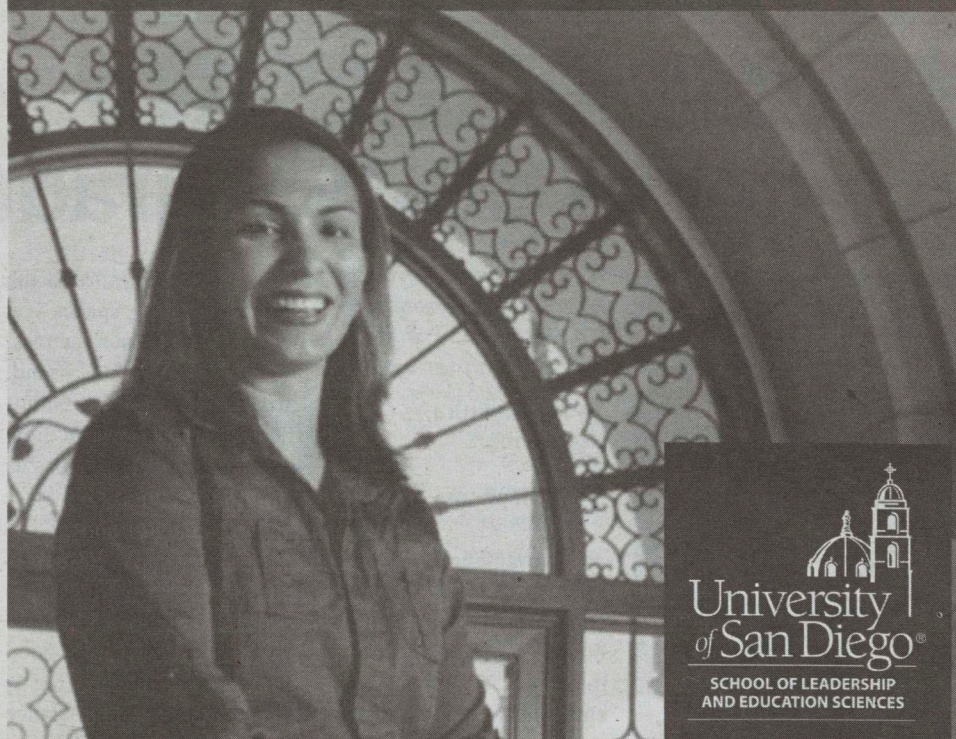
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Senior Farewell

My time at CSUSM

BY MARY GREEN
GRADUATING SENIOR

As I reflect on my experience here at CSUSM, I find that it would be nearly impossible to accurately describe it using only 500 words.

I can tell you that as a 17-year old freshman, I didn't know what to expect when I decided to move away from my home, step outside my comfort zone and pursue a college education at CSUSM. Although my journey was nothing like I had imagined it to be, it turned out to be the most beautiful ride I have ever been a part of.

For me, when I think back to my college experience I won't think about having to learn the Krebs cycle or mitochondrial biogenesis frontwards and backwards. It won't be the memory of learning about the developmental life span of a child or the differences between a gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, because my experience at CSUSM was a lot deeper.

College for me was about forming lifetime relationships with my teammates, roommates and classmates. It was about getting my ideas challenged by my classmates



Mary Green with her personal cheering squad showing the love.

but inspired by the sharing of each one of their passions and goals for the future.

It was about gaining wisdom from professors like Dr. Laura and coaches like Ron Pulvers and also being reassured that they truly believe in you. It was that high you get after winning a championship game, but the feeling you get when you lose a game and can look up at your teammates and still say to yourself, "Wow, I am blessed."

It's about realizing how much you miss the little things about home and finally appreciating everything your parents have given and taught you. It's about going through an ACL/MCL

knee injury, learning the true meaning of patience and realizing there's more to life than just soccer. Not to mention, the indescribable feeling you get when stepping foot on the soccer field for the first time after 10 months of continuous rehab.

I think it is safe to say college for me was about finding myself. As I embark on the next part of my journey and attend graduate school at Johns Hopkins next fall, I will keep a little bit of CSUSM near to my heart. I am forever grateful for the lessons, the successes, the fails and the people that surrounded me at CSUSM, for I wouldn't be where I am today without them.

Senior Farewell

A CSUSM experience

BY KYLE CODAY
GRADUATING SENIOR

I will say at the beginning, CSUSM was not my first choice. However after my first semester here as a junior changed my opinion. My first class was Chicano Theater and I had the pleasure of meeting an admirable and strong woman, Yeni Orozco Towver, who became my best friend in that class. With other future classes, I got the opportunity to meet other extraordinary people: Britany Rose Tribulski, Yohita Reyes, Juan Puentes, David Flores and Alex Contreras, to name a few. However, my best friend at the university is Jesslyn Lopez, who has been by my side since the beginning of our undergraduate study at MSJC. I thank her for helping me in both fields: academic and social.

One of the most outstanding things about CSUSM is the faculty within the department of my studies: Spanish. Each faculty member has not only been an instructor in the academic field but also an instructor of life. To this I say my thanks:

Professor Shuh: Thank you for making me a better writer in Spanish and helping with other writing projects in different Spanish classes.

Professor Rolle: Even though I did not have a class with you, I say thanks for your advice of the publish-



Photo courtesy of Kyle Coday.

ing field and your encouragement to be a writer.

Professor Ramos: Thank you for teaching me the art of translation and thank you for encouraging me to be a better leader as a VP in the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society.

Professor Hughes: Thank you for teaching me the different aspects of linguistics within the Spanish field and I say thank you ten times fold for the opportunity to travel with you to Guatemala in order to do my independent study on the culture of the Ixil Maya along with learning the Ixil language with other faculty members, Professor Garcia of the Linguistic department, and other students.

Professor Strother: Thank you for being a passionate

and caring professor in two of my classes. With your guidance, you helped me regain my passion for creative writing and not only I want to be a teacher, but a writer as well.

Last but not least...Professor Martin: You've been my professor in each semester: SPAN 301A, SPAN 315, SPAN 350A, and SPAN 410E. Your wisdom had a profound change on my view of education and the importance of being an educated person. I hope your wisdom, along with the wisdom of my other professors, will guide me in the right path in Spain or Latin America because the most important concept you taught me: ser el individual como el ingenioso caballero Don Quijote de La Mancha.

Gracias a todo el mundo

Senior Farewell

A letter to CSUSM graduate, Stephanie Borders



Stephanie Borders as a new bride and graduate. Photo provided by Alah Jay Garcia.

BY SARAH HUGHES
NEWS EDITOR

Dear Stephanie,

Congratulations on graduating with a Bachelors of Arts in Liberal Studies. I know you'll make a wonderful and enthusiastic elementary school teacher. This role

will be in addition to all the other captivating spaces you occupy - fabulous actress, model, dancer, fun friend, girly girl and Disney enthusiast (Well done! You now have as many occupations as Barbie).

I've had the honor of being friends with you from Palomar to transferring to CSUSM. It's been fun listening to you talk about good and crazy teachers, trying to make schedules that balance with work, acting classes,

passions explored, monologues, headshots, accidentally somehow volunteering to be in other students' videos for their classes and too much homework.

I'll never forget our exciting group project on Old Wives Tales in Dr. Metcalfe's fairy tale class, the notes from which have gone to die in my email and Google Drive folders. It was hilarious seeing your reaction to the never ending Freudian interpretations of the tales

of childhood. Some of those interpretations were clearly invented by people with too much time on their hands. Others destroyed Disney's versions for us - and provided me with a couple hours entertainment from watching the reaction on your face.

I will always treasure our times spent dancing, exercising and lollygagging - sometimes all at once. The times spent talking or shopping, or meandering to the Westwood Club. The sleepovers with Grease and Grease II double features and lounging about. The dozens of ridiculous profile pictures and group selfies all over San Diego, often with Melody Parks, Katie Donalson or Mariah Paterson. The times you'd hall out your nail polish collection and insist on fourth of July mani-pedis.

The times spent at your parents' house rocking karaoke with Mrs. Borders, dancing like MJ and discovering our inner Wii bowling champions - a sharp contrast to my real bowling abilities. The hours spent getting ready

as a group of giggling girls for a party bus with Katie. Our mutual delight in dorky themes and the costumes we delighted in.

Congrats on getting engaged to Bryan Wammack. I think you two are as perfect as people can be for each other. You have spent the last four years getting to know each other and I can't wait to be there for the next four years to watch you grow. It has been an adventure getting to know him, with his smiling enthusiasm and bear hugs. It has been sweet to watch Bryan Wammack take care of you this semester. It was always obvious he cared a lot for you, but a man that'll smile as he drives you every Monday and Wednesday, carts around your heavy stuff when you need help and happily get you out of class is pretty cool.

I look forward to watching you use your degree to serve your community.

Love you girl,

Sarah

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Athlete Spotlight

COBA's scratch golfer

Student teaches difficult game

By JUSTIN DONNER
SPORTS EDITOR

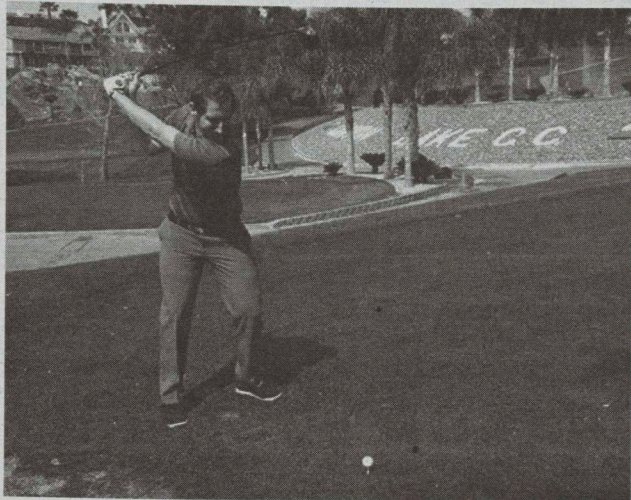
Kyle Inman is graduating this year from CSUSM with a degree in Business Administration.

As one of the college's brightest students, he has a great understanding for the world of business, but he also has a great understanding for the game of golf.

The game of golf first became a part of Inman's life when his stepfather, a head pro and golf instructor, started giving him lessons at 13 years old. Now a days, Inman is the one giving golf lessons to young kids.

According to Inman, one of the biggest things to remember when learning to play golf is to be patient.

"Golf is a sport where you have long term goals. You should stick with it in the long term like most long-term-life goals that you set for yourself. Not being patient with your results is why



Kyle Inman

a lot of people turn away from golf," Inman said.

After coaching for many years, Inman says that the number one tip that he constantly gives is that you need to keep your head down. People are often so anxious to see where they hit the ball that they look up before it even goes anywhere.

San Marcos Executive is a great golf course to learn on because it is shorter and more forgiving according

to Inman. Students are on a budget, and he recommends that you find a cheaper set of clubs online to start with.

"You have to figure everyone started at ground zero. Don't feel worried about feeling judged or stupid. It's so easy to get into your own head," Inman said.

It is important to figure out if you learn best with watching, listening or doing, but then you just have to get out and do it.

Athlete Spotlight

Flamethrower reaches end of tunnel

By JUSTIN DONNER
SPORTS EDITOR

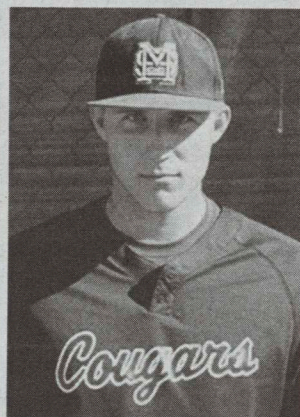


Photo of Matt Bataska provided by CSUSM athletics.

In the fall of 2009, Matt Bataska came to CSUSM to play baseball right out of high school. In fact, he was here before the campus even had a baseball field.

During Bataska's freshman year, the baseball team had to drive to Escondido High School for practice, at noon, five or six times a week. He reflects on how much of a challenge that was for the team, for most of the team had class before and after practice. Somewhere in-between all of that, they would have to find time to eat.

"My sophomore year we got the field on campus and it instantly became one of my favorite places to be in the world. Now the program has its roots grown in and every year the team gets better. It's amazing to see the vast improvements year after year," Bataska said.

Bataska started at CSUSM as a business major, for he had heard that CoBA degrees from CSUSM were highly regarded. After taking both Economics 201 and 202, he realized that he was truly enjoying all of the aspects of the material he was study-

ing, and Bataska changed his major to Economics.

"I especially enjoyed Dr. Robert Brown's Economics 201 and decided that a degree in economics would be just as beneficial in the long run, while also being able to enjoy the process of getting my degree," Bataska said.

This focused student and ball player has a lot of good advice to give students, and he believes you should enjoy the process of being a student, but get in and out in a timely manner.

"I lost valuable time in my life from driving under the influence, I totaled a car given to me, and learned many lessons the hard way. I skateboarded almost everywhere for two and a half

years," Bataska said. "I am, and have been, sober and extremely focused on tasks and goals since, but it took a lot of growing up. Some can handle the casual beer after work, but frankly that won't ever be me, and I am better off that way. Take your time growing up if you need, but learn about yourself, find out what makes you tick and what you are passionate for."

After graduating, Bataska would first like to get a steady job in the business world, pay off his student debts and hopefully eventually find my way into a graduate program for economics. When talking with Bataska, you can tell that he truly wants to make a difference in the political realm. Teaching is also another option for him, for it gives him the opportunity to help young brains gain appreciation for the political and economic freedom that our forefathers gave to us as Americans.

"I would like to thank God and Jesus, my mom, dad, step-mom, girlfriend, grandmothers, brothers, aunts, uncles, cousins, coaches, professors and my teammates for always being there for me, no matter what the circumstances, all 5 years I have been here at CSUSM."

Athlete Spotlight

Weinberger has made much contribution to cancer research

Local polo coach heads to medical school after graduating from CSU San Marcos



Kevin Weinberger with his women's team, courtesy of Aquatic Club of Escondido <http://ace.escondido.org/>

By JUSTIN DONNER
SPORTS EDITOR

Water polo and science; these two words alone do a pretty good job of describing Kevin Weinberger's college life.

Weinberger will be graduating this May with a degree in Biochemistry. He has a strong desire and passion to work in the medical field, specifically as a doctor. He is currently planning on attending Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in the fall.

Besides the challenge of a very difficult major, taking the Medical College Admissions Test and applying to medical schools, Weinberger has been involved in cancer research at CSUSM. He reflects on the research as being very rewarding and gratifying to actually get meaningful results.

"I started conducting research Spring 2013 with Dr. Jose Mendoza. We work with Hsp60, a protein in the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori*. It colonizes the gastric mucosa

of mammals and has been linked to atrophic gastritis, peptic ulcers and gastric cancer," Weinberger said.

Looking back on his time at CSUSM, Weinberger says that he would not change much, except maybe having to take physical chemistry, which unfortunately every chemistry and biochemistry major has to take. Dr. Mendoza has served as his academic advisor and PI for research.

"Dr. Mendoza has really helped along the path to gaining acceptance to Medical School. I owe him a lot, and don't think I will be able to repay him for everything he has done. I can recall my first day of Biochemistry when Dr. Mendoza said, 'Welcome to Biochemistry with a Mexican accent.' He wasn't lying," Weinberger said.

The great thing about Weinberger's story is that he actually never planned on going to college. Palomar was his alternative when he did not get into the Coast Guard. While at Palomar, Weinberger, a past high school athlete, decided he would give playing water polo a shot again.

Unfortunately, he ended up suffering from a torn rotator cuff and labrum.

"After the diagnosis, I did 6 months of Physical Therapy, but my shoulder continued to dislocate so then I had surgery followed by another 8 months of Physical Therapy," Weinberger said.

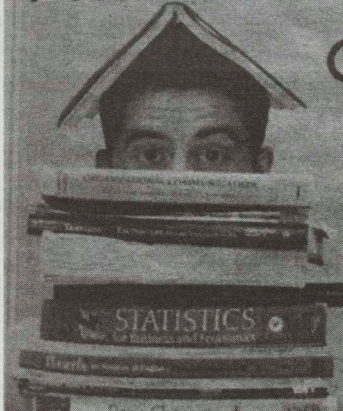
Weinberger's busy schedule at CSUSM has also consisted of coaching. It was after he could no longer play, that Weinberger decided to take a coaching position that he had been offered. He first started coaching at the high school level, but soon found out it was not the environment he had pictured it to be. Weinberger decided to start a year-round club for kids who really had a desire to play and improve their skills. With the help of his supervisor, they created ACE (Aquatic Club of Escondido) Riptides.

Weinberger's biggest piece of advice to young students, is to go get involved. There are lots of opportunities at CSUSM, and if you take advantage of them as Weinberger has, you will find much success.

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Senior Profile

Ms. Gallego's amazing articles will be missed

BY RESTY GREY
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Graduating senior Rachel Gallego still wants to stay at CSUSM even after acquiring her BS in Kinesiology.

Born and raised in sunny San Diego, Rachel graduated from Rancho Bernardo High School and was accepted to Texas State University in San Marcos, TX.

Feeling homesick after a year, Gallego returned to California and attended Mira

Costa Community College until she was accepted into CSUSM as a junior transfer student.

"It wasn't until my senior year that I became more involved. I joined the Kinesiology club and signed up to write for the Cougar Chronicle (whoop!)," Gallego said. "Let me tell you, this was the best decision I ever made. The only thing I can say is I wish I became involved a lot sooner because CSUSM has so many beneficial things to

offer."

Having written for The Cougar Chronicle as the exclusive writer for the Heart Beat for the fall and spring semester, Rachel appeared as one of the most dependable authors the Chronicle during the 2013 - 2014 academic school year.

"Rachel was absolutely great to work with. She was one of the best writers, the first to turn everything in and continuously looking for ways to improve herself.

In fact, I still remember the time she got on me for not giving her feedback on her article so that she could improve," Sports Editor, Justin Donner, said.

Rachel began at CSUSM having declared her major in Child Development. However this quickly changed to nursing and even quicker to Kinesiology.

"I had an internship at the hospital working with nurses and that's when I realized it wasn't for me," comments

Gallego. "During this time, I was in a nutrition class as an elective and I thought 'I really like this, I could see myself doing big things with this kind of information.'"

"Shout out to Dr. Astorino!!" of the Kinesiology program.

Gallego believes Dr. Astorino is "one of the most amazing professors" at CSUSM. Considered one of her most difficult classes, Professor Astorino motivated and taught her how hard

work really pays off.

Rachel now plans to look for a career in Health Education after graduating. She has thoroughly enjoyed her time at Cal State San Marcos and there is no doubt that she will have a very successful career.

"Oh, yes this too..my oh my was there a lot of stairs. I realized I was going to get my butt kicked here..literally," Gallego said.

Senior Profile

ASI President, Matt Walsh, graduates from CSUSM

BY KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Matt Walsh has been a fundamental part of CSUSM for the last five years, using his passion and year of presidency to leave behind positive changes on campus.

He worked as a Resident Advisor at the UVA for two years and as an assistant in the Dean of Students office. Walsh has participated in Sigma Alpha Epsilon, College Republicans, Summer Bridge and USUAB. He was the representative for all students on the Civility Campaign committee as the program was being created. Walsh has served as the Chief of Staff, the treasurer of College Republicans, Residence Hall Council and is currently the President on the ASI Board of Directors.

"I tell people that you re-

ceive your degree in the classroom," Walsh said. "You get your education being involved in the community, and that's what I did."

Graduating from CSUSM with a degree in Social Sciences and a minor in history, Walsh plans to pursue a career in the political realm.

"My goal is to continue to help empower other people to achieve their goals," he said. "I'm staying local, going back to Escondido. I just want to continue to get involved with political operations and community involvement."

Walsh considers the biggest influences of his college career to be the ACE Scholars program for former foster youth and Brian Dawson, the former Director of the dorms.

"Brian had the biggest impact on me and a lot of the

seniors that have graduated between this year and last year. He was the one that gave me a chance," Walsh said. "He recognized the talents and abilities in people and empowered them, giving them the opportunity to achieve what is great. I don't think my college career would have looked how it is if he hadn't given me the opportunity to be an RA at 19. It opened the door for me and was the floodgate to everything else in my life."

Walsh looks forward to his future after CSUSM and is grateful for the time he has spent here.

"This is the perfect way to end my college career. I spent four years learning and growing and educating myself about numerous facts of life and leadership, and presidency let me use all of that this year."



Leah Korthof: Looking good isn't as easy as you think

BY JUSTIN DONNER
SPORTS EDITOR-

Leah Korthof, a graduating marketing major from the College of Business at CSUSM, has built herself quite the resume.

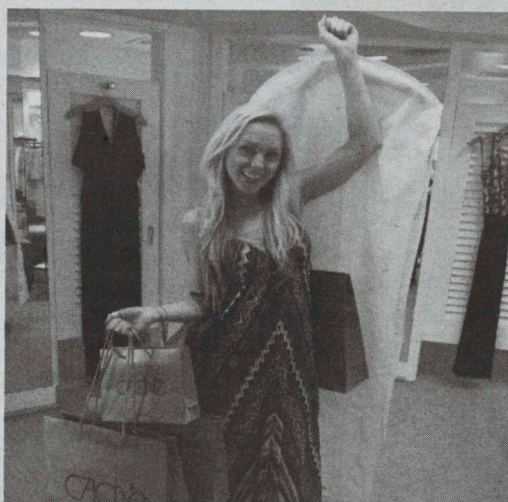
Her passion is rooted in fashion, and it's something she got seriously involved in at an early age.

In high school Korthof opened her own clothing boutique in Fresno, California. It was in this process that she learned what goes on behind the scenes in the world of fashion. She would travel

to the Los Angeles fashion district with her boyfriend, now fiancé, to explore skyscrapers filled with fashion wholesalers.

"Hey I'm not going to lie. Some of the best cardio I've ever done has been carrying huge loads of wholesale clothing through Downtown LA. Yes, I made my boyfriend carry a lot, but we are talking about a lot of clothes here," Korthof said.

Korthof transferred to CSUSM as a junior, and did her best to manage her business from long distance. Eventually the property



owners leasing her the space were having some financial problems, and she felt it was a perfect time

to liquidate her business and focus on school.

When Korthof moved to San Marcos, she got a job working for Cache, and is now one of their assistant managers. This is a store that specializes in selling high end women's apparel. Korthof has received a lot of enjoyment as a stylist helping customers meet their clothing needs.

"Cache has helped me to better understand what goes into helping clients meet their needs and sustaining a competitive clothing business," Korthof said.

Throughout her stay at CSUSM, Korthof has worked full time while taking a full load of classes every semester. She has still managed to be an above average student and involve herself with the Marketing Society.

After graduation, Korthof looks to continue on her pathway to a very lucrative career within the fashion industry. She someday hopes to combine her wholesale and retail experience in pursuit of career as a buyer or district manager of a clothing company.

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Senior Profile

Arthur Silverstein believes in importance of community

By AMANDA LENOX
FEATURES EDITOR

Arthur Silverstein, ASI Vice President of External Affairs, is a Psychology and French double major who has left a lasting impact on the CSUSM community during his time here.

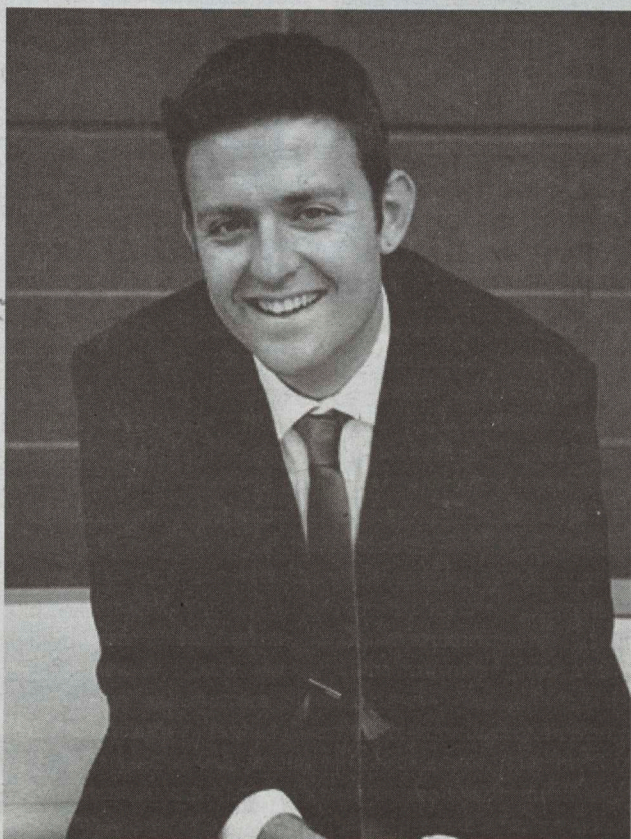
He recalls his most memorable accomplishment while on ASI to be his lobbying days in Sacramento. The California State Student Association (CSSA) coordinates the California Higher Education Student Summit, which teaches students how and what to lobby, and how to be effective.

"My biggest accomplishment was when legislators and their staff talked to CSSA directly and said the delegation from San Marcos was one of the absolute best delegations they've ever

had," Silverstein said. "So to know that my students, that I got to take and train with me, the five of us, went in there, not only were dressed to impress but also represented the CSU and San Marcos and were able to talk about why it's important that we fund higher education and that they actually listened."

One of his favorite memories while at CSUSM is being involved with starting Sigma Chi and becoming the founding President. He also loves seeing the impact that Sigma Chi has made in the community. Silverstein's advice to CSUSM students would be to never turn down an opportunity and to learn from them.

"One opportunity, which was [being] accepted onto Orientation Team, led me into everything I've done on this campus," Silverstein



Arthur Silverstein

said. "It got me involved in ASI and from there I got involved with study abroad."

What he'll miss most about CSUSM is being on a campus community that he has called a home. Being a part of so many different communities, Silverstein believes that once he leaves it will be a surreal moment. One teacher that he credits for having an impact during his time at Cal State San Marcos is Dr. Joanne Peterson. She was his very first college professor ever, teaching GEL 101. She told everyone in the class that 25 percent of the class would not make it past the first year and that of the remaining number, only 50 percent would make it to graduation.

Silverstein explains that Dr. Peterson "said the only difference between that number and you, is that you

all are going to graduate, because she believed in every one of us and made us feel like we were here to graduate." Everyone that he does remember from that class has graduated, he explains, "because we instantly felt a connection with a group or with a person on this campus who believed in us and guided and mentored us."

Silverstein's plans for the future include graduate school in the United Kingdom. He has applied to six different schools which include the University of Kent, University of Sheffield, Regents University, Richmond American University, Kingston University and Queen Mary's College. He has already been accepted into two graduate programs [as of our interview]. He plans to get his Masters with a focus in International Relations.

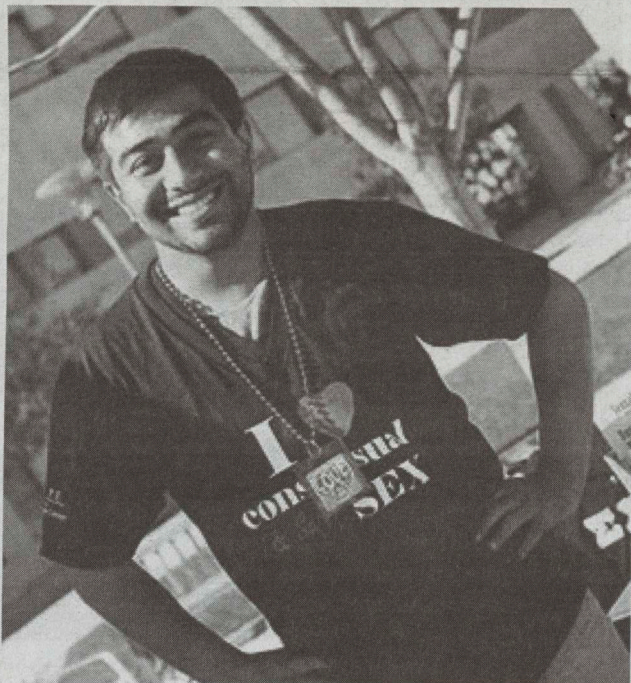
Senior Profile

Eliasar "Biggie" Molina reflects on campus involvement

By KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In his five years on campus, Eliasar "Biggie" Molina has left an impressive mark at CSUSM.

While Molina was not involved on campus during his first semester, he pushed himself to change this in his second one at CSUSM. Molina has actively participated in a wide range of student orgs. on campus. These include Sigma Chi fraternity, the Gender Equity Center, Students Talking About Relationships and Sex (S.T.A.R.S.), LGBTQA Pride Center and CSUSM Network Colleagues. In addition to these, he has been



Eliasar Molina

involved with the Cross-Cultural Center, Black Student Union, M.E.Ch.A., College Republicans, College Democrats and the Civility Campaign.

"Being involved has helped me be a little more communication effective and result seeking. It's opened my eyes to a lot of social injustices but reminded me to always fight for the justice of things," Molina said. "Working with student orgs. has kept me well involved and busy, but it has been overwhelming at times because sometimes I forgot I was here for school."

Now that he is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a General Concentration, Molina

seeks to use this to make a difference in his community. While he has had plans to join the military, he is contemplating a career in law enforcement to work for either a police or sheriff department. If people encourage him to, Molina hopes to eventually enter the political realm and become a politician for at least 20 years.

"Involvement is the biggest takeaway from CSUSM," Molina said. "It's the experiences within my stay here that really shaped my form of thinking."

Molina attributes his love for the campus to many of the people that he met while working with countless student orgs.

"I'm going to miss all of the ASI staff, especially Robert [Aiello-Hauser] and Rodger [D'Andreas]. I will miss SLL, everyone from Josh to Dr. T to Floyd [Lai]. I will miss my fraternity adviser Dan Shaver and Jennie Goldman. From Poli Sci, I will miss Professor Cyrus Masroori, Professor Beavers and Professor Chavez Meyer."

Molina advises freshmen to get involved as soon as possible at CSUSM and to make the most of their time on campus.

"Stay on your grades. Stay involved and take out your headphones. Say hello to somebody. Meet a person today."

Senior Profile

Evan Long inspires

By KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Evan Long is an outstanding example of how campus involvement can inspire a person to excel.

After five years at CSUSM, Long will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development and a minor in Women's Studies. While focusing on his interest in the arts and doing a professional show in San Diego during his first semester at CSUSM, Long explained how his grades and getting involved on campus were not his pri-

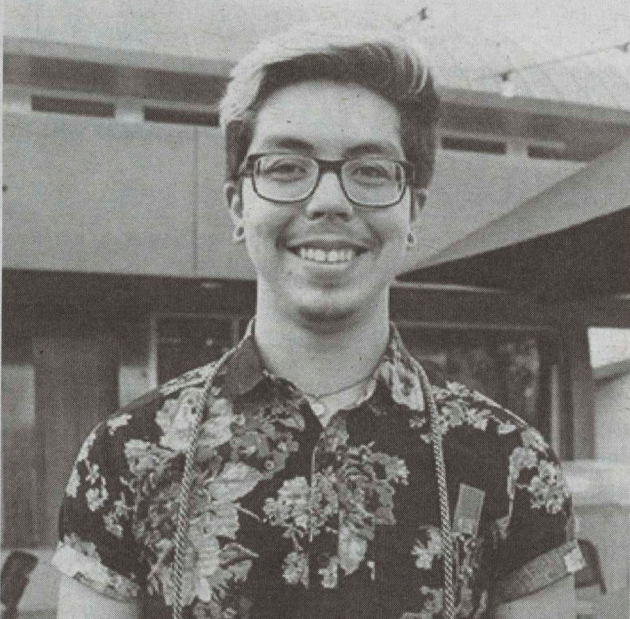
ority.

"I really immersed myself in the production that I was in. I didn't have connections to campus and I had friends at the dorms [where I lived] that started talking about O-Team, their involvement and applying for RA positions," Long said. "The second semester of my first year here is when I started to figure out what I wanted to do."

From then on, Long became an active presence on campus. He has been involved with the LGBTQA Pride Center, O-Team, Network Colleagues, Sigma Chi,

Peer Mentoring and has sat on various committees. He plans to take a break from school for a while before he goes into a masters program. Afterwards, Long plans on either working with nonprofits for mental health and therapy or with an off-site branch of an organization that works with persons dealing with eating disorders. While he is excited for graduation, Long is nervous to meet new people and to leave the comfort that CSUSM has given him, especially the LGBTQA Pride Center.

"Whenever anyone gradu-



Evan Long

ates or leaves, the space changes," Long said. "So I think the entire energy of the [Pride] Center changes every

semester. I'm going to miss that comfort and consistency."

Long encourages students to find their niche on campus as soon as possible to make their CSUSM experience even better.

"I would say anyone that's feeling uncomfortable at Cal State, there's always opportunity to get involved and make friends," Long said. "For transfer students, there's a huge population of them that think they only want to be here a couple years. Me getting involved a little later, I finally realized that there's a lot of people, things and ideas to work with. You only have so much time here that at the end of it, you won't feel like it's enough."

Graduating Greek

My NAK Fraternity Inc. experience

By OTHONIEL FIGUEROA
GRADUATING SENIOR

Dedicating four years of my life towards the establishment of Nu Alpha Kappa Fraternity at Cal State San Marcos helped me in many ways. Being a first generation student and transitioning from high school to a university was a challenge.

Nu Alpha Kappa served as the support system that I needed to stay focused in school. NAK not only enriched my college experience but also motivated me to persevere for a better education; it opened the doors for me to be exposed and embrace different cultures, and allowed me to build lifelong relationships with my brothers. NAK has been the family away from home that I was looking for. I cherish every single moment I spend with my brothers. I remember we struggled when we started brainstorming for the future of the fraternity. We had no idea how to run a professional meeting, let alone how to finance the chapter. All we knew is that we needed something at Cal State San Marcos that could help motivate students not



only to come to school but also to feel as though they are part of the school.

Through NAK I was able to learn how to manage a chapter and fundraise for our annual community service event, NAKLand, which is a small-scale children's carnival for underprivileged families in North County. I am very happy to be part of a fraternity that values education, cultures and brotherhood. I know that I am leaving the chapter in good hands and I can say that every single one of its members has benefited from the fraternity in one way or another. A day that I will never forget will be the day we initiated the

Alpha class. It was a big accomplishment especially because two of my personal little bros, who I mentored throughout their pledging process, crossed in that line.

Being able to see how much the fraternity has grown in the last two years makes me realize that all of my hard work and dedication is being paid off. I will miss all of you and I thank you for being part of the best years of my life. I really appreciate the unseen bond that keeps us together.

¡Si se pudo!
Othoniel Figueroa
NAK X Chapter Founding
Father #5



Senior Profile

Candace Watts

By NOELLE FRIEDBERG
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Candace Watts has attended CSUSM for the last four years and is graduating this semester with a degree in sociology and a minor in Spanish. She has been a leader in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for the last two years and helped start Black Campus Ministries at Cal State San Marcos.

Whenever you see Candace around campus her contagious smile is always there

to greet you. Whether it's at her job on campus with food services, in class, or at InterVarsity, everywhere she goes she brightens the days of those around her. She says that being a part of the InterVarsity community has empowered her to reach out to those around her, and it has made her aware that her faith can't be hidden. She is always inviting people from her class and from work to come and check out InterVarsity because she says it's not a church, it's a bunch of

people getting together as a family.

Candace's advice for anyone who is trying to stay on track with their faith while in college is to get involved in a community. She also encourages people to take risks in their faith and to step out into roles of leadership because that is something other people have empowered her to do and she has been so blessed by those experiences.

"Faith is hard when

Being a part of NAK at CSUSM

Graduating Greek

By CHRISTOPHER MORA
GRADUATING SENIOR

Hi there! I am a graduating senior in Global Studies. I will be the first member of my family to graduate from college. For that reason, I am grateful for my family and friends, and my fraternal brothers, my NAK Carnales.

NAK is a Fraternity on campus and our Pillars represent our commitment to Academics, Brotherhood and Culture. But, what does Nu Alpha Kappa mean to me? During Fall 2012 I had made up my mind: I was ready to drop out of college due to financial hardship. However, it was through

NAK that I found a motivation to keep fighting. As a first generation immigrant, I never really had close friends or extended family members, so when I became a NAK I did not gain friends, but a family that I could count on.

My brothers have been there for me every step of the way. Hence, being part of the first (Alpha) class for my Fraternity chapter fills me with pride and honor that I intend to share with future members. Being part of this organization has been one of the highlights of my college career. I was able to develop social skills by promoting fundraising events and I learned that focus, com-

mitment and drive are the main components to run an organization and any event that we hold as a chapter. I know I may graduate and focus on my professional life in the years to come, but something I will never forget is that Once a NAK, Always a NAK, Until the Day we Die! Best of luck to all my X Chapter Brothers and know that I will always cherish you all and the memories we developed together.

Sincerely,

Cristopher Mora
NAK X Chapter Alpha Class
#23

Graduating Greek

Expressing love for AOII

By CAROLYN BLIZARD
GRADUATING SENIOR

Although I have only been a part of Alpha Omicron Pi for three semesters, my sorority has given me many memories that I know I will never forget.

AOPI has permanently become part of my heart and soul. As cheesy as it sounds, I don't think I would have conquered senioritis and the constant stress of upcoming graduation without my sorority sisters.

AOPI has not only given me many opportunities to grow as a woman, but also it has given me lifelong friendships that will continue to help me grow and succeed in life. Because of AOPI I know I'll always have a strong support system through the good and the bad no matter how long it's been since I've spoken to my sisters. It's true when they say you find your best friends through your sorority.

One of my favorite memories was probably the moment when I finally found out that Marley Small was my "big sis." She successfully made me cry on the day of reveal because she knew she had tricked me into thinking someone else had



Carolyn (right) and her bud, Marley Small (left). Provided by herself.

taken her place. She was my first choice since day one and I'm so lucky to not only call this girl my sister, but also my best friend. I don't know where I would be without my big and I'm so excited we get to graduate together and I get to start this crazy journey called life with my big by my side.

To all of my sisters, AOPI and Panhellenic alike, my

words of advice are don't take your sisters for granted – do things together, help each other, talk on a regular basis, don't stay mad at each other, love each other. My heart breaks leaving my sisters behind and the goodbyes will be the worst, but how lucky I am to have known so many people who are so hard to say goodbye to.

you're isolated from the body of Christ. We definitely learn from other's experiences," Candace said. "Putting yourself in places where you feel unqualified stretches your faith. God touches people in different ways, but everyone has a story."

When Candace was a freshman she had no idea what she wanted to major in, but after taking a sociology

class she fell in love with it.

"Sociology looks at the big picture of how people's environments influence them, not just their biology or their personality," Candace said. "It's interesting that people can try to solve complex social problems by looking at how a person's place in society shapes their experiences."

After graduation she first wants to get work experience

to figure out what area she's interested in and then wants to get a master's in social work. She wants to be a part of providing social services to people who need help.

"With my internship with North County Lifeline, I'm learning that there are many free resources that can change people's lives," Candace said.

Keep up the good work!

Cougar dance department leaves the audience craving more

BY ANNE HALL
DESIGN EDITOR

As the spring semester concludes and the heat begins to rise, Dr. Karen Schaffman and the Cougar dance department follow through with their promise to provide spectators with one amazing dance compilation for the Twelfth Annual Spring Dance Concert.

Audiences cheered and were motivated to dance in their seats as CSUSM students presented their semester of hard work creating hip hop, modern, improvisation, ballet, jazz, etc. that combined reading, literature, writing, music and visual aesthetics from other artistic disciplines created from various students on campus.

With the help of Professor Sandra Doller's Literature and Writing students, students from very different fields of study were brought together to invent stories that could be told through text and visually. The result: a dramatic, humorous, yet tantalizing presentation of com-

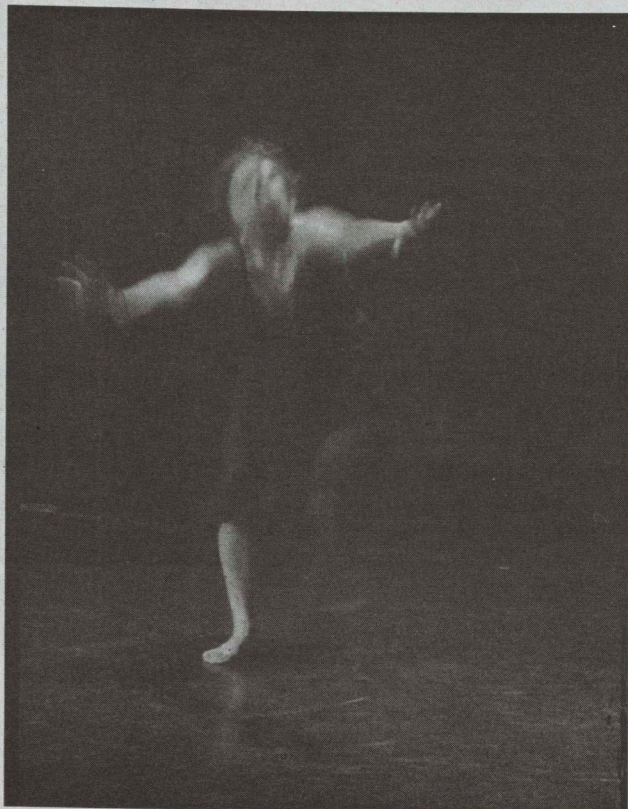


Photo by Anne Hall.

Cierra Potts performing Moving Forward as a solo dance accompanied by poetry reading.

bined art forms that focused on both sight and sound.

"The dances are always different in reflection of the choreographers. In this case,

the students who are creating the work," Dr. Schaffman said, as the final performance was being revealed.

Like promised, the new

Choreography Workshop course that was offered for the first time this spring, delivered a one of a kind performance that reinvented Anne Teresa De Keeremaeker's presentation of RE: Rosas! The FABULEUS Rosas Remix. The dance department took full advantage of Keeremaeker's challenge to recreate her choreographic work and developed a strong and moving creation that focuses on personal growth and observation. The recording of this creation can be seen with the more than 200 videos created from all over the world in response to the challenge. More information for this movement can be found at <http://www.rosasdanstrosas.be/en-home/>.

What a way to end the semester; let alone a college career. Various graduating seniors helped to create and present this performance. Among them are Yessette Navarrete, Maria Apudaca, Rhiannon Jeglin and Kenia Vargas. All of which have departing remarks for being a part of the dance commu-

nity at CSUSM:

"I'm sad that I have to go because I really enjoy doing the dance shows. This show is my third year doing it. This is my final show and I am really going to miss it. I've worked a lot with Karen and she has been my dance instructor, I guess you could say, and I've learned a lot from her and she's helped to make me aware of things I didn't even know about my own body. I would like to say thank you to her for giving me the opportunity to express myself through this medium and allowing me to make my ideas come alive. For always supporting everything and just never rejecting an idea," graduating Visual and Performing Arts major, Yessette Navarrete, said.

"I am very excited for this performance. It's my first time performing and it's like the icing on the cake for me graduating and having this chance. Karen... it's so amazing to work with her. She just helps you to flow with your own movements and flow as your own

person without having to invade your style. She just develops you and just lets you know how great you're doing while letting you know how you can fix things here and there. It's an amazing experience working with her," a performer in many of the routines created through the DNCE 390 Choreography Workshop class, Maria Apudaca, said.

"I'm excited for all that is to come in life. Everybody should take dance," a very active contributor to dance at CSUSM, Rhiannon Jeglin, said.

"I've been participating in dance classes and performances for three years. It has taken me to levels that I didn't know that my body could go and I'm feeling relieved and grateful that I'm actually graduating. Dance has helped me to be more committed to my work," Human Development major, Kenia Vargas, said.

Congratulations to the graduates and to the Dance department for an amazing finish.

Congratulations CSUSM Graduates of the 2013-2014 School Year

Rainbow Recognition at CSUSM

Awards and history of Lavender Graduation

BY SARAH HUGHES & KATLIN SWEENEY
NEWS EDITOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Lavender Graduation spotlights accomplishments of lesbian, gay, transgender or intersex, questioning or queer and ally (LGBTQA) students who are graduating at many universities.

In tracing the origins of Lavender, a nation-spanning story is told. Different locals celebrate the graduation and contributions of their LGBTQA campus communities in their own unique way. "LavGrad" as Lavender Graduation is colloquially called, is a celebration within a school's Pride community or LGBT center. It is often open to friends, family, interested students and supporters called "allies." It celebrates accomplishments of LGBTQA students in a more intimate setting than an official graduation.

According to LGBT Terms and Definitions, a webpage put up by the University of Michigan, "An ally is a person who is a member of the dominant group who works to end oppression in his or her own personal and professional life by supporting and advocating with the oppressed population."

The University of Michigan's list also has 19 other definitions "commonly used in American English" and

notes that it is polite to respect others' "desired self-identifications" by utilizing their preferred pronoun and "never assume another person's identity based on that person's appearance."

LGBTQA or LGBT is typically added to organization names to indicate an effort to include everyone, as opposed to just one group. In many cases, "allies" are heterosexual, the defining note is that they support the LGBTQA community without judging what a person's sexual preference is.

The CSUSM Pride Center has their own version of Lavender Graduation called "Rainbow Recognition." It is a special night to acknowledge graduates who have been involved with the Pride Center. Taking place at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2 at the McMahan House, where members of various departments and student orgs. came together to celebrate graduating seniors. Attendees included Interim Associate Dean, Greg Toya, Associate Director of Multicultural Programs, Floyd Lai and ASI Executive Director, Rodger D'Andrea.

President Karen Haynes gave a speech congratulating the graduates and discuss-

ing the demographics of the class of 2014 as a whole. It was followed by dinner and then an inspirational speech by Arthur Silverstein III, the very first Rainbow Recognition Student Speaker.

Interim Assistant Dean of Students, Jennie Ruiz, presented the graduation tassels and cords to seniors that have been active supporters and participants of the LGBTQA Pride Center. The ceremony honored LGBTQA Pride Center employee Evan Long, Sigma Alpha Epsilon President Mike McKinney and Gender Equity Center employee Eliasar "Biggie" Molina. It also honored Pride Center supporter Alyse Prichard, ASI Vice President of External Affairs Arthur Silverstein III, CSU Board of Trustees member Cipriano Vargas and former Pride Center employee Brandon Torres.

The final award of the night, the Stonewall Catalyst For Change Award, was presented by ASI Community Center Director Robert Aiello-Hauser, Coordinator of Fraternity & Sorority Life, Nicki Croly and Jennie Ruiz. It was presented to Arthur Silverstein III in recognition of his contributions for positive change for LGBTQA individuals and communities.

Cipriano Vargas says goodbye to CSUSM

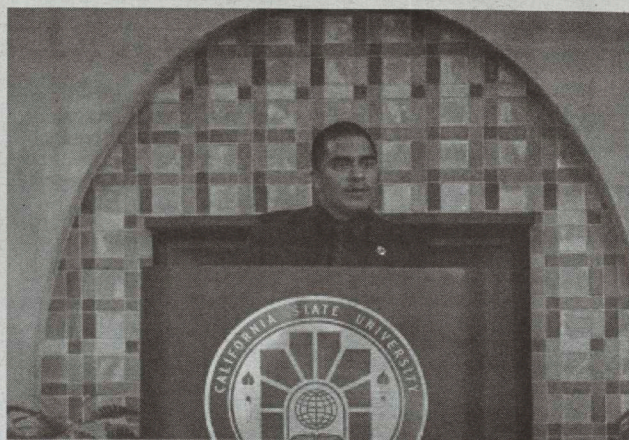
BY NADA SEWIDAN
STAFF WRITER

As CSUSM student and ASI Vice President of Operations Cipriano Vargas gets ready to graduate and move on to the next step of his life, he muses over the past couple of years at CSUSM.

Vargas has achieved numerous goals throughout his career at CSUSM including serving on the ASI Board of Directors for three consecutive years. He explained that classes, internship opportunities, the mentorships from faculty and staff and leadership involvement have all given him a well-rounded framework for the real world.

"I have had the opportunity of mentoring many students, I see their growth and development," Vargas said. "Having a mentor makes a huge difference and I am proud to see my fellow student leaders continuing this work of mentorship."

The years he spent at CSUSM have produced numerous memories for Vargas; however, his favorite memory happened while serving on ASI. During an ASI meeting in his first year on the Board of Directors one particular event stood out the most. It was a heated meeting in which everyone present had differing opinions but afterwards the whole board went to grab dinner. Vargas conveyed that



it didn't matter what their differences were as long as they came together at the end to serve their purpose—the student body.

"At the end of the day we hope to do what is best for the students and put ideologies aside and be able to come together as a family," said Vargas.

Vargas explained that his biggest accomplishment while serving on ASI was being able to register as many as 1,600 students to vote. Along with ASI Board of Directors, Vargas supported Proposition 30 and was able to stop CSU budget cuts.

"I hope that other students are inspired to get more involved on campus because of the things we are accomplishing as student leaders," Vargas said.

Cipriano is graduating with a Sociology degree and a double minor in Women Studies and Spanish.

After graduation, Vargas

will be joining Teach for America as a corp member in San Antonio, Texas for the next 2 years. "I will be teaching kindergartners with a focus on a dual immersion bilingual program," explained Vargas. Afterwards he will be applying for a joint program to get his Master's in Education.

"I truly believe that education can be transformative and my journey at CSUSM is a story of transformation through experiences," Vargas said. "As I get ready to go into 'real world', I hope to use my knowledge as a sociologist and a scholar to be an agent of social change."

Vargas advises CSUSM students to not be afraid to fail. "Sometimes [failing] is the best thing that can happen," Vargas said. "As an individual I have learned a lot from my own failures as a student leader and these experiences have helped me become a better person."



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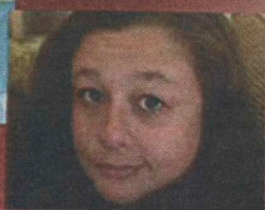


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