Student volunteers enhance the community through service.
Not just a drama queen

On stage, she brings characters to life. But, Almalinda Durán’s education is more than what happens when the curtain rises. While at CSUB, she received an opportunity to study alongside internationally acclaimed voice teachers in Madrid, Spain where she learned Spanish song literature. She is a recipient of CSUB’s Fine Art Merit Award Scholarships. She deserves a standing ovation.

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One student’s inspirational journey

Summer vacation to most students means a trip to the beach, mountains or maybe even Europe. But to theatre major Tyree Boyd-Pates, a CSUB junior, his summer trip was much more than just another vacation. It was the trip of a lifetime and will impact his perspective forever.

“I had never been out of the country before I went to South Africa for two weeks to visit Johannesburg and Capetown. I saw some of the most impoverished areas in the world,” Boyd-Pates said. “Seeing these people who have experienced the depths of racism and affliction, and how they have endured it with perseverance and determination was inspiring.”

Boyd-Pates traveled with the Church of God in Christ and was among a group of 38 children and adults who provided medicine, food and services to local residents in each town. Boyd-Pates’ group provided street evangelism where he interacted directly with residents and their families at local churches. They spent their days talking to people, teaching in classrooms and playing with children in vacation Bible schools.

“Working directly with the children and families and seeing the poverty up close brought things home for me,” Boyd-Pates said. “It taught me to be grateful and helped me to realize that we are incredibly blessed for all that we have. I also learned the importance of a missionary and what it means to a country that so desperately needs spiritual guidance and reconciliation.”

The importance of giving back and making a difference in our own community or in another country is not lost on Boyd-Pates or other CSUB students who volunteer their time and energy to causes both locally and abroad. Boyd-Pates believes it is important for students to broaden their horizons and give back by providing services that make an impact either close to home or far away.

“I would encourage any student to just jump in,” Boyd-Pates said. “You can impact any community just by providing services that community needs. You just need to jump in and hold on with all your might because you never know how it will impact your life in the end.”
The Holocaust was not something Liora Gubkin, professor of religious studies, set out to study when she grew up in metropolitan Detroit. She thought she wanted to be a journalist and applied to the University of Missouri where, as a freshman, she took a class in major world religions. That class not only changed her focus in school, but it changed her life forever.

“The class altered my entire perspective of what I wanted to do with my life,” Gubkin explained. “I did not set out to concentrate on religious studies, but I was fascinated by it.”

Gubkin continued her education in comparative religion at Temple University and University of Southern California. She had not spent much time delving into the subject of the Holocaust, but during her dissertation, when she examined Jewish religious texts, her interest was piqued.

“My first post-dissertation Holocaust research focused on testimonies where survivors of the Holocaust shared their personal experiences,” Gubkin said. “I worked for six weeks transcribing their stories. It gave me insight and confirmed the importance of incorporating their memories when I teach, along with teaching tolerance and respect of differing views.”

Last summer Gubkin joined 19 other professors in Washington, D.C., for an in-depth course on the causes and consequences of the Holocaust. She also personally experienced the murderous hatred of anti-Semitism and racism.

“We were in a basement classroom at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum when a man walked into the lobby, pulled out a gun and opened fire. We heard screaming, people running and sheer panic. We barricaded the door and waited. It was terrifying,” she recalled.

Gubkin and her colleagues were eventually led out of the building safely. They learned later that security officer Stephen Johns died.

“I have never been that close to such violence,” Gubkin said. “During the class, we had become so immersed in Holocaust history it was almost surreal to know we could have fallen victim to the same hatred we were studying. In the face of such hatred, we can only intensify our efforts to educate and teach tolerance. It is that lesson of tolerance I bring to my students at CSUB.”
From the days of bell-bottom jeans and long hair braided with flowers to today’s body art and text messaging, students have found a home at CSU Bakersfield. For 40 years, students have pursued dreams, discovered new interests, cheered sports teams, volunteered to help others, and graduated to careers in hundreds of professions. Students have been guided, supported and encouraged by faculty and staff members who have dedicated themselves to helping students succeed.

In 1970, California State College, Bakersfield opened its doors to the aspirations of Bakersfield and far beyond. The small liberal arts college where sheep once grazed behind Faculty Towers has blossomed into a thriving university. Yet, students still have a small campus experience with personalized attention in the classroom, laboratory and studio. Highly educated faculty, talented staff, and smaller class sizes raise the level of scholarship, research and university experience above what many students at other institutions enjoy.

CSUB is firmly planted in the community, with 70 percent of our 32,000 graduates opting to remain in the area to pursue their careers and raise their families. Graduates comprise a large segment of the professional work force and contribute leadership in every economic sector. The impact of CSUB can be felt in every corner of the region.

This year, CSU Bakersfield begins to celebrate our 40th year of serving students and our community. Celebratory moments will be incorporated into events throughout the year and an online university history will enable you to share your memories, your hopes for the future, and see how far we have come.

Join us this year and reconnect with your university.
Whether you are traveling the globe or have planted your roots in Bakersfield, we want to know what you’re doing. Your alma mater misses you!

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- update your contact information so we can stay in touch
- share a favorite memory or photograph for our 40th anniversary
- send us an update on your career, family and life for class notes

CSU Bakersfield Alumni Association

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DENNIS REVELL
’74, B.A. political science
Today, Dennis is president/CEO of Revell Communications with offices in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

“It was a real privilege being a commencement speaker. Being on stage, looking out at my friends and colleagues, I was filled with hope for the future for all of us. I still treasure the strength of the values and talents we all shared at CSUB to shape our futures.”

JANET MILLAR
’78, B.A. psychology; ’82, M.A. education
Today, Janet is a counselor at CSUB

“Many things have changed, but what is really interesting to me is how we have been able to keep a personal connection with students and with each other as employees. When I was a student, the hangout was in the commons (today’s University Advancement building). It was filled with cigarette smoke and long-haired hippies. Today there are no hippies or smoke, but you can still hang out in the cafeteria. You can still connect.”

Alumni where in the world are you, alumni?

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People volunteer for every imaginable reason. “I want to give back,” “We want to be part of the solution,” or “I want to make a difference in the lives of others.” The refrains may differ, but for the volunteer it always feels good knowing you contributed to something greater than yourself.

“Sometimes it is just a simple thing, like helping serve a meal, that can brighten the spirit of someone else,” said Nancy Solis, a CSUB graduate student. “At the United Way of Kern County’s recent Day of Caring, we helped with a picnic for foster youth and their families. We shared toys with the younger children, did face painting and really just let them know we care.”

At times just knowing when and how to volunteer can be a challenge. For CSUB, students have an answer: Community Service Cooperative, a student-led organization that develops and promotes volunteer opportunities. “We are in our second year and ready to expand,” said Solis, who serves as the organization’s president. “We have a strong group of leaders and are looking for opportunities to serve on and off campus. We are organizing an advisory board with community members, faculty, staff and students to find the best service opportunities for students. We want CSC to be a central point of contact between community groups needing volunteers and students who want to lend a hand.”

With community engagement as a central component of the university’s vision, the student group helps bring the goal into sharp focus. Last year, through service learning courses and campus clubs, 1,388 students contributed...
To raise awareness about their organization, Community Service Cooperative (CSC) students engaged campus and community members in Circle Painting, a collaborative art project. Nearly 1,000 individuals from ages 2 to 83 contributed to the multi-panel mural showing the beauty of collective participation.

Students enhance community through volunteerism

18,990 volunteer hours to over 80 organizations. CSC wants that number to grow.

“It doesn’t matter if we just moved here for school or grew up in Kern County, we are part of the community. This campus is part of the community,” Solis explained. “We need to help each other and help the community to be successful. And, maybe equally important, is the fact that we need so say ‘thank you’ for the support the community has given to us.”

These savvy students also understand that community involvement can provide an advantage in a competitive job market. Working with a team, showing leadership, demonstrating responsibility to others are all traits favorable in the eyes of employers. Solis notes this fact can be good motivation for students – initially.

“Once you have been part of a volunteer effort, it is exciting and fulfilling,” she said. “You can’t wait for the next opportunity.”

Solis encourages community organizations in need of volunteers to contact CSC at csc@csub.edu, and put the power of CSUB to work for you.

“Sometimes it is just a simple thing, like helping serve a meal, that can brighten the spirit of someone else.”

–Nancy Solis
Increased grant funding supports research

The list is impressive: New York Academy of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Chevron, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, National Science Foundation, American Psychology Association, National Parks Service, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Los Angeles County Museum, and at least 40 other national and local agencies.

Together, they funded more than $17.3 million in new research grants last academic year, with another $27.6 million in continued multi-year funding. And together, they are proof of CSUB’s growing academic reputation and ongoing faculty excellence.

“With the continuation of budget reductions, external support for research and creative scholarly projects becomes essential,” said Soraya Coley, provost and vice president for academic affairs. “Some grants allow faculty to devote full-time to research for a period of time or to study at institutions with special resources. Other grants support students in their studies and provide advanced training. All grants contribute to furthering the university and the community we serve.”

From research examining the recovery of post-fire vegetation and the dating of volcanic ashes for an oil company to increasing minority access to college and the creation of a social work education center, the projects are as varied as the faculty who pursue the knowledge.

“Grant funds can really enhance the educational experience both at the graduate and undergraduate level,” Coley said. “Because of our relatively small size, students have the opportunity to participate directly in research with their professors. That is a real benefit for students and faculty alike.”

A list of grant projects is available at www.csub.edu/grasp.

State budget cuts hit home

In dealing with the state’s $26.3 billion deficit, the governor and legislature took a symbolic ax to the budget of higher education. The numbers are staggering. The CSU is implementing $584 million in cuts systemwide, with $11.2 million at CSUB. The savings will be attained through staff and faculty furloughs, a student fee increase and reductions to departmental budgets.

“While the budget situation is dire at the moment and it is a very challenging time, I am confident we will emerge with more streamlined operations and more innovative programs,” Mitchell added. “We are looking ahead to the future knowing our product – well-educated professionals – will ultimately contribute to the state’s economic recovery.”

Campus budget updates can be found at www.csub.edu/budget.shtml.
Perry Eggleston ('96, B.A. criminal justice/’00, M.A., public administration) and his wife, Sherry, ('03, B.A. liberal studies) are not your typical CSUB grads. Many graduates remain in Kern County, but the Egglestons took a giant leap outside the box, leaving their jobs and family behind for new careers in the middle of war-torn Afghanistan.

“Perry worked as a sergeant with the CSUB police department and I was working in a church-based day care program,” Sherry explained. “In 2006, we decided to go on a trip to India where we learned about an organization that helps indigent girls by providing them an education and place to stay. Our kids were grown and gone so we decided to look into similar types of work while we were still young.”

A year after making the decision, the Egglestons were notified that Kabul would be their new home. They visited the region, agreed the location was perfect for them, and moved there permanently in 2008. Perry’s law enforcement background landed him a job with an organization that provides flight and communication services for 130 aid organizations, while Sherry found a rewarding career as a second grade teacher.

“Afghan parents realize that if they educate their children, they will ultimately be more successful and help Afghanistan in the long run. Learning to speak English is a key to that success,” said Sherry. “I teach them entirely in English and many are fluent in about one year.”

Because the war in Afghanistan continues to present many safety concerns, Perry now assists with security at a family health clinic and hospital run by CURE International, an organization working to transform the lives of disabled children. It is the Eggleston’s vision beyond their hometown and their commitment to their faith and the people of Afghanistan that helps them to continue moving forward.

“Our advice to students at CSUB is to look beyond your own borders,” Perry said. “Be open to what is out there. There may be job cuts in the states, but there are excellent opportunities to use your experience outside the United States in places that really need it.”

Sherry Eggleston finds some unique transportation during a trip to Egypt.
1970s

JOHN NILON ('79, B.A. political science; '88, M.P.A.) was selected as Kern County’s administrative officer. Nilon was the public health services director since 2007, and served as the director of Child Support Services from 2003 to 2007.

GAIL SKINNER ('78, B.S. nursing) received her M.S.N. and board certification as a certified nurse midwife and women’s health nurse practitioner.

1980s

VIRGINIA ALVIDREZ ('88, B.A. liberal studies) has joined the medical staff of Memorial Occupational Medicine as an associate physician. She will specialize in occupational medicine with a concentration in workers compensation. Alvidrez is also a graduate of Ross University School of Medicine.

CHRISTINE LIZARDI FRAZIER ('85, M.A. education) has been named the new superintendent of schools for Kern County. Frazier has had too many titles to list, but they include teacher, principal and superintendent. Frazier and her husband, John, have three children.

ANA IGUA ('89, B.S. business administration) was appointed marketing manager for GEMCare Health Plan. She has worked for 12 years as a liaison between managed care systems and employer groups. She handles administrative and maintenance matters regarding contracted health plans.

MICHELLE J. MILLS ('89, B.S. finance; '03, M.P.A.) has been the CSUB budget director for 11 years. She provides leadership and managerial oversight of the university budget and ensures compliance with CSU system requirements.

DANIEL PETREY ('88, B.S. physical education; '00, M.B.A.) has co-founded Mestmaker & Petrey Wealth Advisors, a registered investment advisory firm in Bakersfield. He serves as the new firm’s chief financial officer and chief compliance officer.

CAROLINE WILSON ('82, B.S. business administration) has been appointed executive director of the Kern County Bar Association.

1990s

ANTHONY AGUILAR ('90, B.A. fine arts) is a music teacher for the Bakersfield City School District. He is also the co-director for the high school honor jazz band.

RYAN J. ALSPIN ('98, B.A. political science) has been named assistant chief executive officer for Los Angeles County. He manages the office of intergovernmental relations and external affairs of the chief executive office.

LAURA HANSEN HASH ('96, M.B.A.) works on the staff at CSU East Bay in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the assistant director of communications in the planning and enrollment division on the Hayward campus.

ALBERT IDOLYANTE ('91, B.S. business administration; '98, M.B.A.) has been appointed manager of San Joaquin Bank’s branch on Panama Lane. Idolyantes has 18 years of commercial/agricultural banking experience.
We want to hear from you!

What have you been up to since graduation? Do you have a new bundle of joy, new job or recently returned from an exciting adventure? Send us an update with a photo for the Class Notes section of Inside CSUB. Information can be mailed to:

CSUB Alumni Class Notes
9001 Stockdale Highway, 19AW
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022

Send by e-mail to:
alumni@csub.edu

PRISCILLA LONG (‘90, B.A. public administration; ‘95, M.A. education) is working at CSUB as an academic advisor for student-athletes.

STUART ANNABLE (‘00, B.S. business administration) has been promoted to vice president of commercial lending at Mission Bank’s Bakersfield Business Banking Center.

NATALIE N. BERNARDIN (‘05, B.S. business administration) has launched her own in-home tutoring business, StartSmart Tutoring. She is working to complete a master’s degree and credential in education. She teaches people of all ages, kindergarten through adult, including special education students.

MICHAEL BUTLER (‘07, B.A. psychology) recently became the vice president and director of PathPoint in Bakersfield. PathPoint is an organization that empowers individuals with disabilities or disadvantages to live and work as valued members of our communities.

ROBERT CHAVEZ (‘06, B.A. economics) was recently promoted from sales to general manager of InShape Health Clubs. He was married in 2006 and has one child born in December 2008.

SHELLEY LOYD (‘05, B.A. political science), is a licensed real estate agent with RE/MAX Magic in Bakersfield. Loyd has worked as a transaction coordinator in the real estate industry for six years.

ED PARKS (‘04, B.S. business administration) recently earned LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Parks is vice president of Sullivan Construction Services, Inc.

TANAE WALKER (‘06, B.A. psychology) is currently employed at CSUB as a financial aid counselor. She is also working on her M.P.A.

Baby ’Runners: Raising tomorrow’s alumni today!

LAURA CATHERMAN (‘01, B.A. political science) and her husband, J.J., are seeing double with the addition of twins. The Catherman family welcomed Caden Charles and Bryce Dale on June 17, 2009 in Bakersfield.

MORGAN (REED) ESSERT (‘06, B.A. communications) and her husband, Shawn, welcomed their second son, Mavrick Lee Essert, on June 18, 2009 in Bakersfield.

LORI (HARRIS) MENDOZA (‘07, credential) and MIKE MENDOZA (‘99, B.A. public administration) proudly welcomed Isaac Anthony Mendoza on July 29, 2009.
There is much more to being a student-athlete these days than just attending class and practice. There is also a responsibility to be a leader to others. A new program is being implemented to encourage the development of character among students and student-athletes that will give them necessary skills they can use later in life. The Challenging Athletes’ Minds for Personal Success, or CHAMPS program, is sponsored by the National Collegiate Athletic Association and provides students with development opportunities in five areas: academics, athletics, personal development, career development, and community service.

“This program gives us an opportunity to better integrate student-athletes and students into campus life and give them skills they can use after graduation,” explained Keith Powell, director of educational support services. “It is our goal to create better citizens who are well-rounded for everyday life. CHAMPS is not just for student-athletes, it is for all students.”

The CHAMPS kick-off event featured an appearance by Sean Rooks, analyst for FOX Sports West and 14-year NBA veteran. Rooks told students to train their minds like they train for their sport. “Sean’s message was inspiring to the students and their response to him was fantastic,” Powell said. “He really tried to get them thinking about their future and getting their priorities in order. Development of character is an integral part of this program and everyone involved wants students to be the best they can be.”
Hometown: South Lake Tahoe, CA
Class level: Junior
Degree objective: Engineering; currently a physics major completing the pre-engineering program; accepted to Northern Arizona University to finish her engineering degree next summer.
Background: I grew up in South Lake Tahoe and enjoyed skiing, hiking, biking, and beach activities. At age 14, I began as a volunteer swim instructor for the South Tahoe Recreation Center and was hired the next year. I tried every sport available, but always had a love for the water. When I went looking for colleges, I wanted a campus with a Division II swimming program and an engineering and nursing program. I chose CSUB because of Coach Pat (Skehan) and the small campus appealed to me.

I have essentially put myself through college with financial aid and scholarships. Although I have had a lot of help, I have worked the whole time doing things like being a swim instructor, hostess and waitress. This summer I had an internship in the engineering field in Simi Valley.

Influences: My mom. She has shown me the importance of intelligence, and also stressed independence and strength. This is one of the only reasons I have not failed. Secondly, Michael Flachmann (English professor) influenced my life academically because he gave me my first real taste of what I needed to do to succeed in college.

Proudest accomplishment: Coming from a small team and finding the opportunity to swim in college. Also being part of the first Nike Team Nationals as a member of one of the top 20 cross country teams in the nation.

Passions and interests: Swimming, skiing, and running have been the greatest outlets and passions in my life. I am interested in all the adventurous outdoor activities: hiking, climbing, cave diving, rock jumping, etc.

Favorite thing about CSUB: The small classes and how friendly all the people are.
Future profession: Civil engineer
Upcoming Events

**OCTOBER**

16  **Legends of Jazz** featuring Pete Christlieb  Details (661) 654-2293
23  **Beasts, Death and the Sun** Details (661) 654-6029
30  **An Evening of Art Songs and Aria** Details (661) 654-2168

**NOVEMBER**

5   **Kegley Institute of Ethics** presents “Medicine in Nazi Ideology and Practice”  Details (661) 654-3149
7   **FACT open house** Details (661) 654-3167
5-8 **“The Scepter in the Sand”** Details (661) 654-2240
7   **“Oildale and Beyond”** featuring Merle Haggard  Details (661) 654-2230
7   **Jazz Coffeehouse** Details (661) 654-2511
9   **Career Day/Graduate School Fair and Sports Industry Expo** Details (661) 654-3035
13  **Chamber music fall concert**  Details (661) 654-3541
14  **Jazz band concert**  Details (661) 654-2293
15  **University & Chamber Singers fall concert** Details (661) 654-3073
18  **Larry Karush solo piano improvisations** Details (661) 654-2293
20  **Community Concert Band** Details (661) 654-2293
30  **Fall Commencement** Details www.csub.edu/commencement

**DECEMBER**

7   **FACT open house**  Details (661) 654-3167
6   **Christmas band concert**  Details (661) 654-2293

For more events log on to www.csub.edu