GROWTH on Campus

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CSUB Celebrates 75 years of *The Grapes of Wrath*

Personality: Dean Blanco leaves his mark at CSUB

Alumni News: Fabian Euresti “Camp to Camp” Director
When Jill Burnett decided to ride her bike during the annual Bike MS event in Ventura in October 2012, she thought she was just doing something she enjoys for someone she cares about. Burnett’s step-father suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and the ride is a fundraiser that helps fight the illness. But when he met her at the finish line and she saw his wide smile, she realized she had found a new calling: cycling as a way to give back to the community.

That’s how the 23-year-old CSUB Student found Bike & Build, an organization whose participants cycle through hundreds of communities to give presentations about housing issues and build affordable homes with local housing groups. Each year, the organization selects applicants, from students and community members across the United States, to participate in one of up to eight cross-country routes that include 46 states and parts of Canada. Burnett is the only student from a CSU that was selected for this trip. Her 70-day journey will begin in June in New Hampshire, where 30 participants will trek over 3,500 miles until reaching their destination in Vancouver, Canada.

During the trip, the cyclists will meet with members of different communities where they will share information about their journey and the affordable housing issue, while they encourage them to become involved in efforts to alleviate the problem. The participants will cycle every day, stop to help build homes from setting foundations, to hammering nails, to painting, all while sharing their message of the need to give back to the community.

“I believe in the cause, that’s why I’m doing it,” said Burnett. “There are so many people living in poverty and we kind of tend to just look the other way as a society and I don’t think that we should.”

Burnett’s journey will be more than spiritual. She has a very physically demanding trip ahead of her, which is why she says she feels as though she currently lives on her bike. With the help of a trainer, she has cycled over 250 miles in 20 hours in some of the most mountainous areas in Kern County and Southern California.

“I’m a bundle of nerves, with excitement and anticipation,” she said. “I have no doubt that I will struggle. The idea of riding 4,000 miles seems crazy! But I’m just so looking forward to this opportunity.”

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Every chair was full. Many were standing. Many others were sitting on the floor. All had little room to move. Some were from the elderly community. Many were students. Some were even in elementary school. But each one of the almost 500 people in the room forgot about their physical discomfort for almost two hours, all to be able to hear the story of Dorothy Greenstein, Holocaust Survivor.

Born Devorah Kirszenbaum, 82-year-old Greenstein shared her story of how her family fought for their lives during the years of the Holocaust, and how she was able to survive. But not without many frightening days and nights of being so close to capture by the Nazis, and saved countless times by her blue eyes, blonde hair and the fact that she spoke the Polish language.

Greenstein’s visit was part of the second annual CSUB Days of Remembrance held for four days during the month of April. The purpose was to educate students and the larger community about issues surrounding the Holocaust, from genocide prevention to the bystander effect. CSUB Religious Studies’ faculty and groups made up of students and community members, such as the Institute for Religion, Education and Public Policy (IREPP) as well as The Holocaust Education Network of Kern County, led the workshops.

Although all workshops were well attended, the highest number of attendees came to hear Greenstein speak, and it is no surprise as to why. The Holocaust survivor recounted the days of fear and survival that began by the Nazi invasion in 1939. She told the crowd of her brothers being taken away to jail, her father having to dress as a woman to walk the streets, her entire family having to give up their belongings, like radios, furs and leather, and the fact that all Jewish kids were banned

“People ask me all the time what got me through it, I tell them, hope and faith.”
from school. Greenstein shared that because of her appearance, while her family was in hiding, she was able to sneak in and out of the ghetto to bring them food, although it was very little and often consisted of only a head of cabbage. She then went on to speak about how her family was eventually separated, some captured by the Nazis, and how she remembers seeing her father yell to her to run and hide as he was being captured.

And that she did. For many years, although she was only a little girl, she spent many days and nights hiding in homes, farms and corn fields, many times with the Nazi army and their dogs so close by searching for Jews. Yet Greenstein survived every close call and was eventually able to obtain a Polish birth certificate with a false identity that helped keep her alive.

“My parents said it was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said 9-year-old Ayden Gartenlaub. “It was a great presentation. I was really interested in hearing how she survived. I was glad she shared her story with so many kids so we know what happened during those times.”

Greenstein ended her presentation by asking that all those in attendance be grateful for all they have, and to never give up no matter how difficult things may seem.

“People ask me all the time what got me through it,” she said. “I tell them, hope and faith. Whenever I was at my darkest hour, I would pray to God or speak in my head to my father. And every time I prayed, some miracle would save me.”

Organizers hope attendees take that message to heart.

“It was exciting to see the CSUB Student Union full of so many members of our community,” said Leslie Reyes with The Holocaust Education Network of Kern County. “I hope they took away the message. She believes that we should not live in a world full of hate, and instead live with love. Hope will do that.”

Greenstein currently lives in North Hollywood and frequently volunteers at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles where she continues to share her story.

“Every time I was in trouble, I spoke to my father and asked ‘what do I do?’ He helped me get through everything and I still believe that the angels in Heaven were watching over me every day,” said Greenstein.

Her story captivated all audience members, even the youngest in the crowd.

“My parents said it was a once in a lifetime opportunity,” said 9-year-old Ayden Gartenlaub. “It was a great presentation. I was really interested in hearing how she
Eight years ago she couldn’t even speak English. This Spring, she is receiving her Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration, with honors. But Maria Luevanos’ path to success wasn’t an easy one.

Her story begins almost twenty years ago when she and her husband first came to the United States from Durango, Mexico. They arrived to meet other family in Salinas, California, where they both joined them under the blistering sun where they spent their days picking tomatoes and pulling onions out of the ground. “I didn’t like it, it was so hot, so hard,” she said.

Luevanos’ life in the fields was short-lived, as she became pregnant soon after and left work due to complications with her pregnancy. But what was supposed to be one of the greatest joys in life became an almost year-long struggle with worry and despair. Her son Juan was born with a disability, and was hospitalized for months. Luevanos was by his side every day. “It was hard to think about him not coming home,” she said. “Sometimes I realized that I needed to face that possibility.”

Little Juan was released after eight months of being hospitalized, but his health problems were just beginning. “He had a lot of medical necessities: breathing tubes, feeding machines, surgeries. I didn’t go back to work because I needed to take care of him 24 hours a day,” said Luevanos. That was their life for five years, while her husband continued to work in the fields seven days a week.

When her son started school, he was put into a special education program. Later school officials determined that due to the fact that his disability was physical, he would benefit more from being in a regular school. He was transferred and excelled in all subjects.

In 2005, the Luevanos family, including a second son born when Juan was 5, left Salinas and moved to Bakersfield with the dream of purchasing their first home. With her husband now working as a truck driver, and her sons both in school, Luevanos thought it was time for her to do something for herself. She decided to start by learning English, and she enrolled in classes at Bakersfield Adult School.

Once she learned the language, she decided to continue her education by enrolling in the school’s GED program. “It was hard because there were different topics, and sometimes I got out of class and I didn’t understand anything because it was all in English with language I wasn’t used to,” she said. “But I always stayed after class and asked the teachers for help, and they helped me. They gave me courage to continue, so I did, and I reached my goal to get my diploma.”

Luevanos didn’t stop there. She remembers visiting Bakersfield College with her classmates and being so impressed with the campus. So much, that as soon as she received her GED, she enrolled at BC. Three years later, she had an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts. So, what did she do next?

“The word ‘university’ scared me, it made me very nervous,” said Luevanos. “But I decided to transfer to a university because I earned it, and I applied and was accepted into the Public Administration program here at CSUB.”

Aside from the time spent in class, Luevanos would study at home up to five hours a day. She dedicated most of her time to schoolwork and completing assignments. Her hard work has paid off, as she will be receiving her Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration with honors. She was also recently inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha, the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration. She is not done quite yet. “I applied and have been accepted into the Master of Public Administration program here at CSUB;” she said. “I’m ready to work, and give it 100% until I achieve my next degree.”

But she will not be graduating alone. Luevanos’ oldest son Juan graduated from High School this spring, and he will join her here at CSUB this upcoming Fall Quarter. “I never thought that this would happen,” she said. “Doctors told me that he would not survive and now 18 years later, he’s graduating and has proven to be a great student and a great son.”

Luevanos also became a citizen of the United States two years ago. While citizenship and a college degree were far from what Luevanos said she hoped to accomplish when she arrived in the US almost twenty years ago, she is happy and proud of her accomplishments and hopes that her story of struggle and triumph will inspire others to work hard to achieve their goals. “Don’t say you will do it tomorrow, just do it now,” she said. “You can’t accomplish it just thinking about it, you have to act.”
Colleen Goodman: MSA-HCM

Wife, Mother, Grandmother and Scientist

Colleen Goodman spent her childhood looking at bugs, blood and parasites with her brother’s low power microscope and performing lab experiments with his chemistry set. Now, Goodman is a Clinical Laboratory Scientist and Administrative Director of the Laboratories for Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield.

“I was one of the lucky ones who knew what I wanted to do for life,” said Goodman. “Laboratory science provides specialization in a broad range of disciplines, and I have never gotten bored with the work.”

And her love of the job is obvious; she has been a laboratory scientist for over 30 years. Yet despite making her childhood dream come true, Goodman felt there was something missing. So, after a thirty-year absence, she went back to school, and will now graduate with her Masters Degree from California State University, Bakersfield with honors.

“Completing a master’s program has been a long-term goal for me,” she said. “Although I have completed a few certificate courses specific to lab management, I knew that I could be a better manager and more effective team leader if I had opportunity to be in a formal program.”

Completing the program was no easy task for Goodman. She continued to work full time at Mercy, all while paying off her children’s school loans, sending them to graduate school and helping to raise other extended family’s children. But she says the Master of Science Administration-Health Care Management program at CSUB really helped her to achieve her goals.

“Interaction with other students in the program provided a wider perspective of learning opportunities, and face-to-face accountability helped to keep me on track with classwork. CSUB met that need, and I am especially thankful to Dr. B.J. Moore for her guidance,” said Goodman.

Colleen is also passionate about her family. She is married to Gerald L. Goodman, a Pastor and retired Navy Chaplain. They now reside in Lake Isabella. Together they raised four children of their own and few others along the way, and they now have six grandchildren. She plans to continue her work at Mercy Hospitals with the skills that she obtained at CSUB, and although she is proud of going back to school, she recommends that others don’t wait.

“Thirty years is a long time, too long, to wait to come back,” she said.

Goodman was named the Outstanding MSA-HCM student of 2012-2013 with a 4.0 Grade Point Average. She was one of several students honored at the BPA Honor Banquet on May 10th and the Pi Alpha Alpha Induction Ceremony on May 17th.

 Aside from the physical training, Burnett has to also raise $4,500 to take part in the trip. Most of the funds will help fund young adult driven affordable housing projects, while the other portion will be donated to the Bakersfield Homeless Shelter, the charity that she selected. She has received a lot of help from businesses and members of the communities in Kern County.

Although Burnett is excited about all those communities she will be able to help during her 3,200-mile ride, she’s already talking about what she will do when she returns home.

“I think that I will continue to be interested in the cause, advocating to raise awareness of affordable housing,” said Burnett. “I think we have a responsibility as people and as a society to give back to one another. Nobody is alone in this world, so we should all help each other. Having some sort of volunteer experience really makes you appreciate what you have in your own life, because it humbles you to see you are having an impact in someone else’s life.”

More about Burnett’s journey with Bike & Build can be found at www.bikeandbuild.org/rider/6769.
With all that he’s helped accomplish for the Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering Department (NSME) at CSUB, one might think that he has been here for decades. But Dr. Julio R. Blanco, the soon-to-be retired Dean of the program, was able to do it all in just seven short years.

Born in Cuba, and raised by extended family in Spain, Blanco always knew that he would grow up to work in a field where science and physics were involved.

"I was always interested in how things worked," said Blanco. "Scientists learn about things through hypothesis testing, experiments, and all that was just second nature to me. Testing things to see how they work just fascinates me. I enjoy it, and I’m good at it."

Blanco began the path to study physics in Oviedo, Asturias, a northern province in Spain, a country where he says being a scientist is seen as very prestigious. At age 19, his parents left Cuba, and together they moved to Los Angeles to begin a new life. Blanco only spoke Spanish, so he spent six months in the English as a Second Language program at Polytechnic High School in San Fernando. He then moved on to attend San
Fernando Valley College, now known as California State University Northridge. While at school, he worked full time as a box boy in a local supermarket, where he moved up to assistant manager. He was invited to join the company corporation as a manager, but declined. He was then given the opportunity to give a lecture at the first CSUN Astronomy class, where he stayed to assist in teaching Physics while he completed his master degree studies.

Blanco eventually applied and was given a position working at Hughes Aerospace Company in Culver City. The job consisted of traveling, so he took the opportunity to continue his education and enrolled in Pennsylvania State University to complete his PhD, where he was awarded the highest doctorate fellowship. In 1987, he was invited by former CSUN colleagues to apply for a tenure track position, which he did and held for 20 years, the last five of which he was the Physics Department Chair.

With such a successful, secure job at CSUN, why consider moving to the Bakersfield campus? Blanco sums it up in one word: opportunity.

“I felt that I could see the impact of my work during the time that I would be here,” he said. “There was no prior engineering program and I could play a large role in creating one for this region.”

A region, according to Blanco, that has a shortage of scientists and engineers. Many of those that work in these fields are recruited from other cities and states. Blanco wanted to change that. “We need to have engineers in our community that are locally trained,” he said. “It is important to bring knowledge to students that they can become engineers if they are willing to do the work, then they can be successful.”

Blanco accepted the role of Dean of the School of NSME and immediately rolled up his sleeves. With the help of CSUB President, Dr. Horace Mitchell, and CSUB Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Soraya Coley, Blanco set out to gain information from the community seeking to find out if the need and the interest for a local engineering program was there. He said they found that both businesses and students were eager for something of the like: business owners stated that they had to spend money recruiting engineers from out of state, while over ten thousand Kern...
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County students surveyed said that they would be interested in being able to locally earn an engineering degree.

Despite the high interest, there wasn’t any state funding available to implement the program, Blanco and the team launched a search for other financial avenues. They received an over 8 million dollar grant from the US Department of Education, and secured great support from large companies such as Chevron.

With the financial backing and the enormous support coupled with interest from the community, the first ever Computer Engineering degree at CSUB was created, and students were able to enroll in the program beginning in the Fall Quarter of 2011. Degrees in Electrical Engineering and Engineering Sciences were added in Fall 2012. Although the programs are fairly new, they have already surpassed the enrollment numbers that were not expected until 2015 with 1,405 students in Fall ’12 enrolled in the engineering programs, about 18% of the total student body. In addition, in April 2013, the CSUB NSME Program opened the doors to its new engineering complex that will provide laboratory and classroom space that will house more than one million dollars of the necessary equipment to be used in the three Engineering Programs.

“We are beginning to meet the needs of the community, and I am very proud that we have set a path for the future students and the Dean of these programs at CSUB,” said Blanco.

For all his work, Blanco and CSUB NSME have received several recognitions, including the 2011 Education category Beautiful Bakersfield Award, as well as the “Exelencia in Education” Award.

Blanco will retire from CSUB at the end of Spring Quarter, leaving many CSUB students, staff, faculty and administration officials sad to see him go, but grateful for what he is leaving behind.

“Dr. Blanco brought to CSUB, a commitment to ‘making real’ our mission and vision in region,” said Coley. “He worked with the faculty and staff in transforming the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering to meet the needs of the community and to expand opportunities for our students. His support of faculty scholarship and research, and his grant development and fundraising skills were vital to the growth and development of the programs in the school. He will be missed, but his impact will last.”

Blanco’s work in the creation of the engineering program was a visionary, but he hopes they will continue to expand after his retirement to include concentrations or even degrees in petroleum and agriculture. Regardless of his work in the creation of the engineering programs, Blanco says that he is very proud of all of the NSME programs at CSUB, such as Mathematics and Nursing. However, his passion will always be engineering, a passion that despite his departure from CSUB, he will take with him.

“I see a very bright future for CSUB engineering,” said Blanco. “No matter where I go, I will always be watching from afar to see what NSME is doing.”

Dr. Blanco will start as Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at California State University Monterey Bay on July 1. We wish him well.
He wasn’t sure what his major would be, but he always knew he wanted to be able to tell stories. So, for his first few years at CSUB, Fabian Euresti had an undeclared major. His second year he thought about trying out theatre, so he showed up to a CSUB theatre audition. But he was intimidated by the talents of another actor, and walked away. He eventually chose English as his major and earned his degree.

“I suppose I really did want to be an actor, but was greatly concerned with representation of actors of color in film on stage,” said Euresti. “I thought, as an actor, how can you tell stories in the real world if you never get the role?”

That’s when Euresti began to think about filmmaking. But he says it was too late for him to change his major to Communications because he was so far along in his studies. He stuck it out and now says he’s glad he did. “I am interested in character-driven fiction. Having studied English Literature at CSUB has helped me immensely in this endeavor,” he said.

Upon graduation from CSUB, he began his graduate studies in filmmaking at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia. His thesis film entitled “Dos, Por Favor,” tells the story of an LA County jail inmate whom, upon release reunites with a prison-mate, and his life is never the same. Since then, he has made several film essays that have been shown at film festivals across the state. In February, he gained local notoriety when the documentary “Camp to Campus” premiered at CSUB, a film he directed that focuses on first-generation college graduates who come from a migrant labor background.

“Camp to Campus” director steps from behind the camera to tell his own story

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Everywhere you look on campus these days, there’s something new to see, and somewhere new to learn and grow. That improvement and expansion of the student experience is behind the influx of new projects at CSUB.

On April 3rd, CSU Bakersfield held a grand opening celebration of the new Engineering complex with a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony. The 5,000 square foot complex, funded by two grants from the US Department of Education, includes laboratory and classroom space that will house more than one million dollars of the necessary equipment to be used in the three Engineering Programs currently available at CSUB: Computer Engineering, which began in fall of 2011, and Electrical Engineering and Engineering Sciences, which began fall of 2012. Although the programs are fairly new, they have already surpassed the enrollment numbers that were not expected until 2015.

“These Engineering programs have become some of the fastest growing programs in the university now,” said Julio Blanco, Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering. “We are way ahead of the curve, and we could not offer these programs without these buildings and the equipment they house. This allows us to provide Engineers to this community that are prepared and locally trained.”

As a testament to the significance of this addition, in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony were dignitaries including the Honorable Mayor of Bakersfield Harvey Hall, CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell, CSUB Vice President Soraya Coley, Dr. Blanco, CSUB NSME faculty and staff, Representatives from the offices of Congressman Kevin McCarthy and the Kern County Board of Supervisors, CSUB faculty and staff, CSUB students and Bakersfield community members.

Just two weeks later, on April 18th, doors were opened to the new Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley Center for Student Success. CSUB President, Dr. Mitchell, welcomed the sizeable crowd of CSUB faculty, staff, students as well as community members to the grand opening, and invited all to take a tour of the facility.

The center is named after Dr. Kegley, sitting Chair of the Academic Senate and Chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. Dr. Kegley made a donation of a total of $200,000 to establish funds that will be used to create, maintain, and enhance the establishment. This represents the largest gift ever received by the university from a faculty member.

“This center is about facilitating the dreams of our CSUB students,” said Dr. Kegley, as she addressed the crowd. “It’s here to give them extra skills improvement, opportunity for community involvement, and knowledge about what it means to be a university student.”

The Kegley Center for Student Success is located in Modular West on Student Way directly across the street from the residence halls. This remodeled 1,500 square foot facility provides space for workshops, tutoring, study sessions and group advising meetings as well as offer collaborative...
sessions with other campus resources such as the Center for Community Engagement and Career Education, Financial Aid and the Health Center. The establishment of the Center also creates a permanent home for the Athletics Academic Advising Program.

And not long after that opening, on April 27th, ground was broken on a long-awaited project, the new Arts Center. This groundbreaking signals the start of construction on a $19 million dollar project that will house classroom and studio space for drawing, sculpture, digital arts, outdoor kilns and a ceramics room all built with up-to-date health and safety equipment to accommodate the specialized work done in those spaces. The existing art facilities will be retained for media such as painting, wet photography, printmaking, and art appreciation classes.

When asked what this means for the university and for Arts and Humanities students, Richard Collins, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, said, “The CSUB Fine Arts Center is long overdue. This simply gives the Art Department what it has always deserved: adequate studio facilities for the work they do in training the next generation of artists.”

The 9,000 square foot CSUB Arts Center will provide better accommodations for art students. Dean Richard Collins states, “Now they will have facilities built to each purpose, with dedicated studios for ceramics, sculpture, digital arts, and painting and drawing.”

Collins continued, “The program has grown in artistic stature and national visibility through the excellence of their faculty and the excellence of their graduates—like Jeff Colson who recently won a Guggenheim award, arguably the most prestigious arts grant in the American art scene.”

The first phase of the new CSUB Art Center is expected to be ready for student use beginning Fall 2014.

“We are very excited about this,” said Joyce Kohl, Chair of the Art Department. “It means existing students will have access to amazing facilities, and we will be able to attract even more art students to CSUB. This is a situation where everyone wins.”

The last project to break ground this year may well be one that people are buzzing the most about: the new student housing complex. In November 2012, the California State University Board of Trustees met and passed a resolution to approve plans for the new student housing complex at CSU Bakersfield.

“CSUB’s greater commitment to student success is evident in projects such as this,” said Dr. Thomas Wallace, Vice President of Student Affairs. He continued, “As our reach in higher education continues to be more defined and widespread, interest from students across the country, as well as international students, increases due to the further awareness of the high quality education available here.”

“This complex will be an impressive addition to an already beautiful campus,” said Crystal Becks, Housing Director. She went on to say, “Contrary to what is so commonly heard, CSUB isn’t a ‘commuter school’. Students are the center of everything we do and this exciting new student housing project speaks directly to our dedication to providing

“This center is about facilitating the dreams of our CSUB students.”

–Dr. Jaquelyn Kegley
students the best in all things related to education.”

The complex will be comprised of three four-story residential buildings and a single-story support facility located on the northeast side of campus at the south end of Don Hart Drive East, north of Kroll Way. Total plans include rooms for 500 students.

In addition, the facilities will incorporate study rooms, lounges, classrooms, a game room, and a multi-purpose room. A central courtyard is included in plans and will allow opportunities for further group or independent study while providing residents with active outdoor areas for recreation.

“Residential life is alive and well on the CSUB campus, but a new, state-of-the-art facility is exciting; both for staff and for students,” Wallace commented. “This project will allow residential life to reflect our commitment to excellence in the student experience in a very meaningful and tangible way.”

Responsible resource stewardship and environmental sustainability are of particular concern and interest here at CSUB. With that directive, special attention is being given to sustainability in this project as it incorporates several features that promote energy conservation and sustainable building practices. The building will be designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold equivalency. It will incorporate operable windows that maximize light and ventilation. High performance glazing, along with sun shades, will help reduce the solar heat gain that’s so prevalent in Bakersfield summers. Likewise, bathrooms will incorporate low-flush toilets and solar hot water panels on the roof will reduce annual energy costs. Similarly, energy-efficient light fixtures and controls designed to reduce energy costs for lighting will be utilized throughout the complex.

Estimated timing for the project, barring unforeseen delays, includes ceremonial ground breaking in May 2013, construction to commence in late summer of 2013 with occupancy set to begin February 2015.

There’s no denying it: progress and growth are happening all over the CSUB campus.
The Grapes of Wrath, by John Steinbeck, is an important work in the canon of American Literature. First published in 1939 and set in the Southern San Joaquin valley, the novel focuses on the Dust Bowl era and is culturally significant to our region because it speaks to our past and informs our present. During 2014, the School of Arts and Humanities at California State University, Bakersfield, will mark the 75th anniversary of the publication of Steinbeck’s classic novel of the Dust Bowl migration.

“The cultural legacy of the Dust Bowl migration on our area can’t be overestimated. It has shaped the music we listen to, the language we speak, and the values we embrace,” said Dr. Richard Collins, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. “Steinbeck’s novel captured that cultural shift as it was happening, and we want to recognize and document through the arts and humanities how extraordinary that shift was for Kern County, for California, and for the nation.”

“Proud to be an Okie: CSUB celebrates 75 years of The Grapes of Wrath” is a yearlong celebration designed to commemorate, document, and preserve the migration experience of families during the Dust Bowl to Kern County and Bakersfield, recognizing it as one of the most significant periods of migration in US history. The project was also developed to meet the need for greater awareness and documentation of the era so that it can be promoted not only within the communities of Bakersfield and of greater Kern County, but also provide additional access and information sources to local educators as well as scholars from across the nation.

The celebration will kick off with a screening of John Ford’s 1940 film version of the novel at the historic downtown Fox Theatre, built in 1930. Collins continued, “The events we have planned for the year touch on every subject our students major in, including art, music, theatre, literature, language, history, communications, philosophy, and religious studies. It’s a great way for the community to see the relevance of these subjects to the everyday life of the community.”

Other events over the course of the academic year will include a tribute to the Dust Bowl’s musical legacy, including the Bakersfield Sound; an exhibition of period photographs; a theatrical production of From Dust Thou Art at the Doré Theatre. The Walter Stiern Library will exhibit banned books, host speakers in its Walter Presents series, and highlight archival and photographic holdings in its California Odyssey: Dust Bowl Migration Archives.

In addition, related lectures will be hosted by the Kegley Institute of Ethics; the Institute for Religion, Education and Public Policy; the History Forum; the California Writers Series; and CSUB’s First-Year Experience in cooperation with One Book One Bakersfield. A tour of the Weedpatch Camp, featured in the novel, is also planned, as well as concerts by country musicians, a bluegrass band, and our own Bakersfield Youth Symphony. Everyone can get in on the fun, and even earn credit while doing so: for-credit courses will be offered through Extended University, including a course that examines California Literature from the 1930s this summer.

The culminating event, in Fall 2014, is an academic conference, “The Cultural Legacy of The Grapes of Wrath,” for undergraduate, graduate, and professional scholarship and research on the Dust Bowl and its influence on history, media, literature, music, theater, art, religious studies, and philosophy. “There really is something for everyone in this lineup of events, from the most informal and entertaining to the academic and enlightening,” Dr. Collins concluded.

The novel may be 75 years old, but its themes of migration, acceptance, resilience, and overcoming adversity ring as true as current events covered on the nightly news.
Kegley Institute of Ethics

Every quarter The Kegley Institute of Ethics at CSUB brings thoughtful and thought provoking speakers to campus in support of its mission to inspire our community to recognize the value of thinking about and engaging in ethical behavior. Spring quarter 2013 has proven no exception. Here’s a digest of the compelling events hosted by the Kegley Institute this quarter.

Guns. It’s a subject that people talk headedly about on both sides of the issue. The Kegley Institute of Ethics and California State University, Bakersfield hosted “Gun Violence: Causes and Cures,” a panel discussion in mid February.

Moderated by Dr. Christopher Meyers, Director of the Kegley Institute of Ethics, the panel features a list of impressive community experts and activists: Ralph Bailey (KNZR’s The Ralph Bailey Show); Brik McDill, PhD (CDC Mental Health); Greg Williamson (BPD Chief of Police); and Terry Phillips (community activist).

“The series of tragic killings, combined with the difficult political questions associated with gun restrictions and mental health management, make gun violence among our society’s more pressing ethical issues,” noted Meyers. “The goal with this gathering is to have a real discussion, not just another opportunity for opponents to yell at each other. That’s why we have included representatives from mental health and law enforcement, in addition to advocates for greater and or lesser gun restrictions.”

The Kegley Institute teamed up with the United Way of Kern County in early March to present Rich Hardwood, Founder and President of The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation on a special lecture called “Coming Together: Engaging One Another in Civic Conversation.”

For more than 20 years, the Harwood institute has helped people develop into public innovators, build boundary spanning organizations, grow common spaces for innovation and learning, and cultivate the conditions, norms and productive narratives that help their communities move forward. Today, their approach is being used by tens of thousands of individuals in communities across the United States and around the globe.

“This is great timing for Kern County,” said Jill England, Vice President of Community Impact at the United Way of Kern County. “Harwood raises the hard questions that communities at some point or another need to confront if they want to thrive, but in a way that invites exploration, dialogue—and ultimately, action. We’re by nature a generous community - we’re ready to hear this.”

On April 17th, Kenneth Feinberg gave the 27th Annual Charles W. Kegley Memorial Lecture. Feinberg, author of What is Life Worth? and Who Gets What?, was Special Master for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund and for the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill, as well as many other high-profile cases. During his talk, “What is Life Worth,” he recounted the choices he had to make in determining which victims would receive compensation and for what amount. In the end, he was solely responsible for compensating more than 5,000 victims and families of the events of 9/11, to the tune of nearly $7 billion.

The nationally recognized attorney also served as Special Master for the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). For that role he was dubbed the “pay czar,” since he determined the pay for the top 25 executives at the companies that took federal bailout money. In his most recent role, Feinberg served as the Administrator of the British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon
disaster victim compensation fund, created to compensate businesses and workers whose financial livelihood was damaged or threatened as a result of the BP oil spill disaster.

“There are few people who figure more prominently in the last 40 years of U.S. justice than Kenneth Feinberg,” noted Meyers. “He took on these terribly difficult cases – typically without compensation – and brought some measure of closure to victims and their families. We are very proud to have him give this year’s Kegley Memorial Lecture.”

To round out a busy quarter, in late April the Kegley Institute, in partnership with the School of Natural Science, Mathematics & Engineering, brought Dr. Ainissa Ramirez to campus for a special lecture, “The Moral Ramifications of Technology Use.” Ramirez is Doctor of Material Sciences and Engineering, former professor at Yale, and a highly acclaimed TED lecturer. Dr. Ramirez now devotes her days to showing students, at all levels, that “science is fun,” and serves as a science advisor to NOVA, Dragonfly TV, and the Exploratorium. At Yale, she was the director of the award-winning science lecture series for area students, called Science Saturdays (www.sciencesaturdays.org). She strongly believes in the need for improving public understanding of the sciences.

As Meyers promised, her dynamic presentation got everyone pumped about science.

In early 2013, The Walter Stiern Library at CSU Bakersfield announced that author Angie Chau was named as the 2013 Walter Stiern Library PG&E Writer in Residence. As Writer in Residence, Ms. Chau gave a public reading on May 9, in the Dezember Reading Room and will teach a one-day writing creative workshop in the library on Thursday, July 11. She will have an office on the fourth floor of the library designated for her use during the summer.

Ms. Chau is the acclaimed author of “Quiet As They Come,” a collection of short stories set in 1980s San Francisco that portrayed the interconnected lives of Vietnamese immigrants. Publisher’s Weekly gave the book a starred review and said the book’s characters “radiate dignity and depth.”

“It is an honor for us to bring a writer of Angie Chau’s stature to our library,” said Curt Asher, Interim Dean. “We are grateful for the ongoing support of our community partner PG&E for making this opportunity possible.”

Author Sandra Cisneros described Ms. Chau’s book as “heartbreaking tales of ordinary people lost between the extraordinary circumstances of history. Bitter and beautiful all at once.”

Born in Vietnam, Ms. Chau earned a BA in Southeast Asian Culture and Political Economy (ISF) from the University of California, Berkeley and a Master’s degree in English with a Creative Writing emphasis from the University of California, Davis, where she was the fiction editor for The Greenbelt Review. She has been awarded a Hedgebrook Residency, an Anderson Center Residency, and a Macondo Foundation Fellowship. Her work has appeared in the Indiana Review, Santa Clara Review, Night Train Magazine, and the most recent Hey Day Books anthology, New California Writing. In 2009, she won the UC Davis Maurice Prize in Fiction.

In 1997 Chau’s first published work appeared; it was a poem dedicated to her father called “Blue Dharma Skies.” Shortly there after, in 1999, she began writing fiction. Currently, Chau is working on her latest novel.

“The book “Quiet As They Come” is being used as an additional textbook in a variety of universities across the country such as Brown, UCLA and Loyola. Chau says, “Quiet As They Come” is a series of stories based on the same set of characters, Vietnamese

see CHAU page 18
CSUB students support Bakersfield children through the annual Runner Dance Marathon

The secret is getting out: CSU Bakersfield students give just as much as they receive. Thankful for all of the endowments, scholarships, and funds that the sponsors, alumni and local community have invested into their futures, through the successful return of the Runner Dance Marathon, the students have given back in a major way, to the tune of $7,300 to be exact. This financial contribution to the Lauren Small Children’s Medical Center is one that required much work and dedication from all those involved.

Held on Friday, April 17, the 2nd annual Runner Dance Marathon was a student-led and driven event that educated as well celebrated the joys of giving back to the community. Featuring activities like a photo booth, caricature drawings, card making stations, video games and 12 non-stop hours of dancing, this campus-wide event was one that drew support from all areas of the university. Students, faculty and alumni volunteered together in all aspects of this event from registering participants to serving the student-prepared plate from event sponsor Panda Express.

“This organization [Lauren Small Children’s Medical Center] not only focuses on helping families receive their necessary medical attention here in Kern County but they also work for Kern County having its own fully equipped Children’s Hospital in Bakersfield,” said Hilda Nieblas. “With all the work that they do, it only made sense to unite the CSUB with the Children’s Miracle Network to bring the Dance Marathon to campus. I knew that once students were informed about this organization, they would fall in love with it like I did.”

As the momentum for the project builds and it continues to leave its legacy on the CSUB campus, the participation from the local and CSUB communities will continue to grow as well. In fact, during its inaugural year, the Runner Dance Marathon had more than 200 students participate and raised $6,500 for the center. The event’s donation along with the donation from the CSUB Campus Gamer’s extra-life event resulted in CSUB being recognized as the Corporate Sponsor of the Year for Bakersfield Memorial Hospital. In hopes of becoming a CSUB student tradition, the dance marathon returns every year with more involvement and activities to teach students the valuable lesson of charity. It is clear for all to see that the future for Runner Dance Marathon here at CSUB looks mighty bright.

Chau explains the struggles she had starting off when beginning the novel by saying, “When I first stated writing the book, there was virtually nothing out there in the literary landscape on the impact of the Vietnam War on Vietnamese families. I wanted to offer a new view and allow people to walk in shoes they may not have the opportunity to walk in otherwise.”

On July 11th, from 10am to 4pm, Chau will be teaching a one-day writing workshop in the library, which is open to the public. The cost to attend

CHAU continued from page 17 refugees to the Bay Area, over about twenty years. The stories track these people as they try to find and make home in this country after escaping war-torn Vietnam.”
the workshop is $150 and the application deadline is June 30th which is available online or through the library administration office. Parking permits will need to be purchased for the one-day creative writing workshop.

Chau says, “As the workshop leader, my goal is to create a space in which students feel free to take stylistic and artistic risks. We will discuss some of the essential components of fiction (character, dialogue, structure, scene, metaphor, image, among others) and how we can best utilize such tools to create compelling and memorable stories.”

For further information on the workshop, call the library at 654-3042.
By any measure, the President’s Associates is CSUB’s oldest and most prestigious giving society. Each year, gifts raised from the generosity of the President’s Associates fund our Student Research Scholars (SRS) program, a competitive scholarship which provides CSUB students a $2,000 stipend to conduct graduate-level research with faculty research mentors.

The generous contributions of the President’s Associates members support student research scholars who vie for limited research competition slots. Upon selection, they complete a comprehensive research project under the direction of a faculty mentor and present their research at a yearly on-campus competition. Winners advance to compete at the state level. For the 2012-13 academic year, fourteen scholarships were awarded.

In February, the 43rd President’s Associates dinner was held to recognize donors and scholarship recipients. Morgan Clayton, President of the CSUB Foundation Board and President and CEO of Tel-Tec Incorporated, served as Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Sheryl Barbich, Brian Burrows and Louis Barbich attended this year’s event.

One of the student scholars, Nicole Blackhawk, spoke and gave a personal glimpse to event attendees of her unique and priceless experience researching the habitat fragmentation and isolation of populations of Giant Kangaroo Rats over recent years. “I feel this project has helped enrich my educational experience and make what I learned in the classroom more relevant to real life,” she said.

The 2012-2013 Student Research Scholars include: Joe Baal, Robert Bassett, Nicole Blackhawk, Stephanie Caffee, Christine Choi, Jonathan Goodell, Maria de Carmen-Guzman, Evan MacKinnon, Jeffrey Parker, Marta Percolla, Ana Sofia Potella Perez, Madison Smith, Megan Smith, and Danette Brents. The faculty mentors who guide students through a year of rigorous research and competition are: Dr. Brian Hemphill, Professor of Anthropology; Dr. Anna Jacobsen, Assistant Professor of Biology; Dr. Karlo Lopez, Assistant Professor of Chemistry; Dr. Brandon Pratt, Associate Professor of Biology; and Dr. Danielle Solano, Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

The generosity of and partnership with the members of the President’s Associates allow this program to continue to operate and flourish. In fact, the University cannot achieve the level of excellence it seeks in serving students and the community without significant partnerships for excellence like these.

Each year, gifts raised from the generosity of the President’s Associates fund our Student Research Scholars (SRS) program.
Immensely kind, educated, and generous are just some of the words used to describe philanthropic legacy, Helen Hawk Windes. Known throughout the Bakersfield community for her beautiful spirit and charitable nature, Windes left an impact on all who were graced by her presence, an impact that is strongly felt on the CSUB campus through its Honors Program.

Helen had a passion for people and spent the majority of her life traveling around the world, whether it was for her own enjoyment or during her time as a member of the information staff on Pan American Airways. Her worldly life experiences culminated in a great push to better the lives of those around her. Helen’s life motto was simple: if you are blessed with a lot of money, you have to help other people. With this outlook, she generously donated a $1,000,000 charitable remainder trust to ensure the continuing excellence of the University Honors Program.

Though she had no biological children, Helen adopted the honors students as her own and often-attended many of the program’s celebrations and events. Spending time with the program’s students whether it was attending a Shakespeare production with them or visiting program director Michael Flachmann’s house for the program’s annual honors brunch was not just something that she looked forward to, it was part of the essence of who she was. Helen genuinely loved the students and was interested in hearing their stories. Seeing the success of the top performing university students and watching them evolve into the cultured, mindful and impactful students that the program is known to produce, was one of her greatest treasures.

Since its founding in 1980, the Honors program has committed itself to standards of excellence unparalleled by any other program offered at the university. It combines both academic scholarship and social aptitude to create an environment for its participants to receive the full college experience. They form bonds with their fellow honors students and are able to maintain those bonds as they progress through their four years of coursework.

“The CSUB Honors Program was one of the major reasons I chose to stay in Bakersfield for higher education,” said Ken Beurmann, CEO of TERRIO Physical Therapy & Fitness, Inc. “It quickly established a network of diverse colleagues who all possessed top-notch academic skills, who pushed me to excel day-in-and-day-out, and that helped not only enrich my overall academic experience but also my social experience.”

Helen Hawk Windes with one of the Honors Program students during one of her many visits.

Helen Hawk Windes with one of the Honors Program students during one of her many visits.

Helen’s life motto was simple: if you are blessed with a lot of money, you have to help other people.

see how the program has blossomed into the esteemed program that it is today. Expanding from a two year to a four-year program and incorporating students from all different backgrounds, from athletics, to math and science, to art, the well-rounded nature of the program is exactly the lifestyle that she embraced and CSUB will continue to work to ensure that the Honors Program lives up to the promise of her legacy.
Out and About with CSUB

CELEBRATE CSUB

27TH ANNUAL BAKERSFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL

27TH ANNUAL BAKERSFIELD JAZZ FESTIVAL / PARTY IN THE PARK
MICHAEL A. NEAL ('73, '82 BS, MBA in Business) works at CSUB, serving as Vice President for Business and Administrative Services.

THERESE ELMORE ('83 Bachelor of Arts Philosophy) is the Coordinator of the New Student Program for the Department of Orientation at CSUB.

PAMELA CONNERS (96 BA Child Dev. & '99 MS Clinical Psych.) is Director of Advising in the Liberal Studies Department at CSUB.

PERRY HAROLD EGGLESTON (96, '00 BA and MPA in Criminal Justice) worked at CSUB for 12 years and then moved to Kabul, Afghanistan in 2008. His wife worked as a school teacher while he worked as the Director of Security at a humanitarian hospital in Kabul. They both returned to the US in 2010 and Perry currently works for Montclair State University in New Jersey.

WENDY GERHOLD ('99 BA English) is an Administrative Support Assistant at CSU Bakersfield.

THOMAS HARVEY ('96 MSA-HCM Healthcare) has just recently published a book of his own, “Listen to Your Kids.”

KARLO M. LOPEZ ('99 BS in Chemistry) employed by CSU Bakersfield and is currently an Assistant Professor for the Department of Chemistry.

STEVEN MICHAEL WALSH ('94 Bachelor of Arts English and Theatre) is a Summer Bridge Coordinator for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at CSUB.

DAVID MONTGOMERY ('91 BA Economics) is self-employed as a Writer.

TAMMY RHODES ('99 BA Liberal Studies) is currently a Social Studies teacher at Belton Elementary School in South Carolina.

KIMBERLY D. WILLIAMSON ('92 Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration) is the Service Coordinator at the Community Engagement and Career Education office at CSUB.

NATALIE BANDUCCI ('04 Bachelor of Arts Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies) is currently working in the Department of Social Work at CSUB.

JILLIAN BUTLER ('05 BS Economics) is currently employed by Nintendo of America Inc. in purchasing.

SARAH ELAINE HICKOK ('07 BA Bachelor of Art) is a Provider Relations/Marketing Coordinator at Empire Eye and Laser Center.

JARRETT DEE FISHER ('01, '03 BA, MPA Public Administration) is married to Katie Cross-Fisher. Jarrett has recently been appointed Assistant Dean of Students at Princeton University.

KATIE LYNN FISHER ('05 BS Business Administration) received her Masters of Arts in Education and a California Teaching Credential from Pepperdine University. Katie has enjoyed staying home with her two daughters Lindsay and Madison since then.

RUBICELIA ALVAREZ ('08 BA Psychology) works at CSUB in the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities as the Coordinator.

BROOKE HUGHES ('05 MA English) is an English Instructor on campus at CSUB.

MICHELLE KINDER ('01 MSN Nursing) is a Lecturer at CSUB in the Nursing Program.

MARINA MANZANO ('00 BA English) is the Contract Technician/Buyer in the CSUB Procurement office.

EDUARDO L. MONToya ('03 BS Mathematics) is currently a faculty member at CSUB as an Assistant Professor in Mathematics.

NOE PEREZ ('04 BA History) works at Visalia Unified School District as a Special Education Teacher.

MICHELLE PONCI ('03 B.S Business Administration) is a Benefits Coordinator here at CSUB.

JESSE QUINTANILLA ('00 & '03 M.E.D Sociology & Counseling Education) is the Educational Talent Search (ETS) Program Director for CSUB.

PATRICIA MAYRA RAMIREZ ('08 Masters of Science in Counseling) is an Academic Advisor at CSU Bakersfield for the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP).

ADRIANA SIXTOS ('04 BA PPA) is currently an Academic Advisor at CSUB.

KEITH SMITH ('04 BA Communications) is one of the Network Analysts at CSU Bakersfield in the Telecommunications Department.

DIANA TORRES ('08 BA Communications) is one of the Administrative Support Coordinators of Communications and Modern Languages in the School of Arts and Humanities at CSUB.

FRANCESCA VALENZUELA ('03 Bachelors of Science in Business Administration) is employed by Comprehensive Cardiovascular Medical Group in the marketing department.

CHRISTOPHER VANNI ('03 BS Biology) is an Instructional Support Technician in the Biology Department at CSUB.

LEANNA VENDRO ('09 Master of Science MSA) works at CSUB-Antelope Valley Campus as an Administrative Assistant Front Desk Operator.

KATHRYN VILLA MILLER ('00 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration) works in the Procurement Office at CSUB as a Contracts Specialist.

STEVEN JAY WALLACE ('05 BS Computer Science) is an Engineer Manager at Northtop Grumman.

ANDREA WEIKEL ('08 BA Communications, '11 MS Counseling) works at CSUB in the Dean’s Office of the School of Arts and Humanities.
SHIREE WHITTENBERG (’02 BA Child Development, ’06 MA Early Childhood) is the Information Technology Consultant for the department of E-Learning Services at CSUB.

PATRICK WITCHER (’02 Masters Education Administration) is employed by the Bakersfield City School District as a Vice Principal.

EVELYN YOUNG (’09 Masters in Public Administration) is the Executive Assistant to the President at CSU Bakersfield. She is currently a doctoral candidate in the Bakersfield cohort of the Collaborative Doctoral program in Educational Leadership (EdD) in partnership with CSU Fresno.

KARLA YOUNG (’05 MPA Master of Public Administration) works at CSUB as an Outreach and Recruitment Counselor for the Outreach Services Department.

MERRISA PAULSON (’10 Masters of Science) is an Outreach Counselor at CSUB for the Outreach Services Department.

JESSICA AMARANTE (’10, ’12 BA & MSW Psychology, Religious Studies and Social Work) is a Social Service Director at Windsor Health Care.

STEVEN LANCE BYNUM (’10, ’11 MPA Public Administration) is employed by the County of Kern as an Investigator.

IRMA CERVANTES (’99 BA Communications, ’13 MPA) is now employed at CSUB as the Public Affairs Coordinator in the Office of Public Affairs and Communications. She also received the prestigious RTNDA Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in Journalism.

LINDA GUTIERREZ (’11 BA Criminal Justice) is currently working as a DJ; she plays a wide array of music from country to cumbia, salsa, old school, merengue, hip-hop and more.

MAGARET MOORHEAD (’11 Masters in Public Administration) is currently working at CSUB in the School of Business and Public Administration as the Budget Analyst. She also works for the Small Business Development Center that partners closely with businesses downtown to support the economic growth in Kern County.

LINDA MIKITA (’11 BA Communications) is an Assistant to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at CSUB.

PATRICIA PADILLA (’11 M.S Educational Counseling-Student Affairs) is an Administrative Support Coordinator at CSUB in the Political Science Department.

JESUS R. PEREZ (’10 BA in Criminal Justice and ’12 MPA) is an Outreach Admissions Assistant for Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at CSUB.

MELISSA PHILLIPS (’11 Masters of Education in Curriculum & Instruction) is the Head Women’s Soccer Coach at CSU Bakersfield.

TANYA SNYDER (’12 BA Public Administration) is now Director of Operations in the Office of Extended University at CSUB.

KATY SPENCER (’12 BA Sociology) is an After School Aide for Valley Achievement Center.

MELISSA TURNER DAWSON (’11 BA Psychology) is currently working on her Masters in Educational Counseling program at CSUB.