Quality of life matters

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Students competed in dumpster diving and aluminum can stacking contests.

Nearly 100,000 pounds recycled during CSUB’s fourth RecycleMania run

For the fourth year, CSU Bakersfield participated in the nationwide RecycleMania competition alongside more than 250 universities. A total of 96,444 pounds of material including plastic, aluminum, and cardboard, were collected at CSUB during the 8-week long competition.

Kick-off was on Monday, February 10th in front of the CSUB Student Union. Students competed in dumpster diving and aluminum can stacking contests. There was also an appearance by the “Bag Monster,” demonstrating how many plastic bags one person uses during the course of one year.

RecycleMania is a friendly competition where colleges and universities can promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. Over an 8-week period, colleges across the United States and Canada report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week and are in turn ranked in various categories based on who recycles the most on a per capita. National recognition is provided to the winning schools in each category and each receives an award made out of recyclable materials and bragging rights. During the last three years CSUB has participated, the university has...
Bring it on home!

It’s good to be home! CSUB had their 18th Annual Homecoming Celebration week, which was an exciting event that brought blue and gold spirit all around campus.

CSUB students go dumpster diving to demonstrate the amount of recyclables that are disposed of in the trash.

Students got together and showed their school spirit by participating throughout the week.

The celebration began on February 22nd with the Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner, where four outstanding CSUB alumni that week, a spirit rally was held where CSUB students showed off their Roadrunner pride. On February 28th, students danced the night away at the Homecoming dance, “A Night Under The Stars,” where the freshmen, sophomore, and junior princes were honored. A campus “clean up” followed that Monday where the homecoming court and campus community pitched in to pick up trash across campus. Later and princesses were crowned.

Homecoming ended at the CSUB basketball game at the Rabobank. During half time, the Homecoming King and Queen were crowned: Shannon Smith and Cebron Bradford, both CSUB seniors. “This means a lot to me. CSUB has been my family for so long, and it feels great to be part of this. I’m happy to be part of this school, which has always been there for me,” said Bradford. He wasn’t the only one excited, “I feel honored! CSUB has brought so many opportunities to me, and this has made my CSUB experience even better,” said Smith.

CSUB has made it possible for students to create memories on its campus; homecoming week, now a tradition on campus, is clearly here to stay.

"CSUB has been my family for so long, and it feels great to be part of this. I’m happy to be part of this school, which has always been there for me.”
Getting to the bottom of Valley Fever

Antje Lauer had never heard of Valley Fever until she arrived at CSU Bakersfield seven years ago. Her passion had been researching amphibian-killing bacteria; research she came to conduct in North Carolina from her native Germany 12 years ago. But when the opportunity to continue to do research while teaching a small group of students at CSUB came her way, she couldn't resist.

Once she was here, her research took a different direction. “They asked me to help with their current Valley Fever research,” said Lauer. “I started by looking for what they had done to determine where the fungus is and how to keep it from growing. I thought surely someone has done this research. But I found that all the research they had done focuses on developing a vaccine. So, I knew where I needed my research to go.”

Lauer began by randomly selecting 10 areas outside of the city limits. For the last few years, with the help of her students, she would periodically test the sites for the presence of the Valley Fever fungus. While some produced negative results, the group found a high presence of this fungus at several of their locations. “We found it in some fields where there were housing developments, as well as open fields across Kern County,” she said. “We tested several times a year, throughout the years, so that we could see if the fungus is present year-round. We found several locations we can call ‘hot-spots’ for Valley Fever.”

Lauer is unable to publicly disclose these locations without permission from the landowners. However, now that she has determined some of the potential breeding grounds for the Valley Fever fungus, she has been working on developing an anti-fungus that could potentially be spread out in those areas when the opportunity to continue to do research while teaching a small group of students at CSUB came her way, she couldn’t resist.
that may help to combat it. “It would be great to be able to tell housing construction workers or farmers to spread this anti-fungus on their land to help combat Valley Fever,” but it’s not that simple.

Lauer would need to encourage landowners to agree to confirming the presence of the fungus on their property, get approval from environmental agencies to spread an anti-fungus, and of course, secure funding to make it all happen. Although Lauer’s work has been published in national magazines and gained strong regional attention, funding hasn’t been easy. “National grant foundations aren’t interested in funding this type of work because it’s so localized, which makes continuing the research difficult,” she said.

Although she has come so far in her Valley Fever research, Lauer hopes to continue to be instrumental in fighting the breeding of the fungus, and soon be able to dedicate more time to researching her initial project of amphibian killing fungus. “I work with students on this project every year, and we present our findings on campus and at national conferences, but I haven’t been able to get any further on this topic because of all my Valley Fever work,” she said.

Lauer will continue to participate in research at CSUB. However, she states that the part she loves most about her job is the time she gets to spend teaching. “I instill in the students the importance of working hard, and when I see their desire and dedication to developing their learning and research, it makes me smile and helps me say, ‘I truly love my job.’”

"I truly love my job!"
CSUB Housing Director shares how she chose **Holistic Medicine** to fight **ovarian cancer**

**Crystal Becks**

In 2001, she was given a death sentence. Twelve years later, CSUB Housing Director, Crystal Becks, is sharing her story on how she has successfully battled her stage three ovarian cancer. “I felt like I was in a bubble, like I was the only one going through this. I felt hopeless,” said Becks.

Becks shared her story during this quarter’s Brown Bag Discussion, where she not only talked about her fight against the disease, but also about her choice to use holistic medicine to do it. After two years of chemotherapy proved unsuccessful, Becks traveled to the Middle East where she learned about this type of natural healing. Holistic Medicine is a natural way of healing the body. This medicine is about finding balance spiritually, emotionally, and physically. Holistic practitioners believe that having one of the three out of balance can create discomfort in someone’s life.

When she returned home, Becks decided that Holistic Medicine was the path she would take to fight her illness. “I invited a healer to my home. She entered with no shoes, didn’t wear deodorant, and sat on the floor. I thought, ‘What did I get myself into?’ She gave me tips about natural healing and left my house.” Becks, not knowing what to expect, followed her orders. Soon she became healthier, and sometime after, she went into remission.

The Brown Bag’s guest speaker found her peace at last. Turning to Holistic Medicine gave her the strength and motivation to fight for her life. Becks went from dealing with being given a couple months to live to living life to its fullest. “I feel like cancer was a gift in my life because it helped me put more thought into what I put into my body,” said Becks. “People say it’s too expensive to eat clean, but being sick is more expensive. My cancer medical bills are a lot more expensive than the money I spend on eating healthy.”

Becks said that her goal was to help the audience walk away feeling empowered and help them take control of their health. Her testimony did just that for CSUB senior Jacqui Haffmonn. “Most of the things that Crystal said impacted me. I had a close friend with cancer and I wonder if he had known about this, would he have lived? I wish talks like these would be given more often so students can get informed,” said Haffmonn.

The Brown Bag Discussions are an opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and alumni to learn something new. Guest speakers, like Becks, are invited to motivate and impact our CSUB campus. “These discussions give our students, staff, and community members an opportunity to come together as a campus and learn interesting facts about our guest speakers,” said Emily Poole, Assistant Director of Campus Programming, also part of the committee of the Brown Bag Discussion.

The Brown Bag Discussions are held once a month during the regular school year. Those that attend may actually walk away with some knowledge that can truly impact their lives.

“**I feel like cancer was a gift in my life because it helped me put more thought into what I put into my body,**”
A hospital chief executive officer, a county administrative officer, a gerontological clinical specialist, and a psychologist and family therapist, make up the four outstanding individuals who were most recently inducted into the prestigious CSUB Alumni Hall of Fame.

“As a CSUB Alumnus and current CSUB Alumni Association Board of Director, I have the opportunity and take great pride and pleasure in recognizing the accomplishments and careers of outstanding CSUB Alumni who have brought honor and distinction to the university,” said David Loomis, CSUB Alumni Association President-Elect. “Earning a degree through CSUB is an honor, and being recognized by your university as an Alumni Hall of Fame inductee is priceless.”

The four individuals that were honored are as follows:

**Audrey Cochran, MS Nursing 1990** – Cochran was the second person to receive a Master of Science Degree in nursing from CSUB. She is a nationally certified continence care nurse and a clinical specialist in gerontological nursing. She is passionate about geriatric care and has contributed to the community since 1990 through her private practice as a family elder care consultant and manager of a continence rehabilitation program for a local gynecology practice. Her articles on this subject have been published in professional journals and specialty newsletters. Cochran is a widely recognized speaker at community groups and national conferences about the rights of the elderly. Cochran has received numerous awards for her work with the elderly including the Kern Community Foundation Woman Defining Philanthropy Award of 2008. In addition, in 2006 she became the first CSUB alumna to receive the President’s Medal.

**Dr. Lynne Hall, MA & Credential in Counseling 1978** - Hall received her Master of Arts Degree from CSUB in 1978 in Counseling and Personnel Services and her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Southern California in 1989. She is a licensed Psychologist and Marriage and Family Therapist. Hall is now retired from her most recent career role as Dean of Bakersfield College (BC). Prior to her retirement, she served in various capacities at BC including: Faculty; Counselor and Director of the Extended Opportunity Program and Services; and Director of Career Development and Workforce Preparation. Hall was also Dean of Instruction and Economic and Workforce Development at BC and has held two interim administrative positions since her retirement.

**John Nilon, BA Political Science 1979 & MPA Public Administration 1988** – Nilon is currently the Kern County Administrative Officer, and recently served as the Interim Chief Executive Officer of Kern Medical Center. In his current role, Nilon is responsible for duties such as administering a $2.6 billion dollar budget, countywide policy development, property management, public works, and information technology. Prior to this position, Nilon has served as the Director of Kern County’s Department of Public Health, Director of the Kern County Department of Child Support Services, and the Executive Director of Employers’ Training Resource. He has directed the implementation of several strategic performance improvement strategies, leading to performance improvement in each of his assignments.

**Russell Judd, Master of Science Healthcare Administration 1992** - Judd was recently named Chief Executive Officer at Kern Medical Center. Additionally, Judd has been the author of weekly and monthly columns in local newspapers and magazines, and has been a featured guest expert on TV news and radio shows.
“Earning a degree through CSUB is an honor, and being recognized by your university as an Alumni Hall of Fame inductee is priceless.”

Medical Center (KMC). This is where Judd started his healthcare administration career as an administrative intern while attending CSUB. as Dignity Health’s Mercy Hospitals of Bakersfield until his recent appointment at KMC. The Alumni Hall of Fame, established in 2006 by the CSUB Alumni Association and CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell, is now an annual celebration that showcases outstanding graduates of CSU Bakersfield. The Hall of Fame is intended to recognize alumni who have made significant contributions in their chosen field of endeavor and/or in their community, and whose accomplishments and careers have brought honor and distinction to the university. CSUB Alumni Association President Jewelle Scales said, “Every time the Alumni Association recognizes an alumni with this honor, it showcases the impact that CSUB has had on the life of the individual and further validates the importance of having an institution of higher learning in our community.”

He later served on several administrative positions at KMC before becoming president of Barstow Community Hospital. He then moved out of state where he served as president of Payson Regional Medical Center in Arizona, followed by president of Berwick Hospital Center in Pennsylvania. Judd returned to Bakersfield in April 2004 where he served as CSUB Alumni Association and CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell, is now an annual celebration that showcases outstanding graduates of CSU Bakersfield. The Hall of Fame is intended to recognize alumni who have made significant contributions in their chosen field of endeavor and/or in their community, and whose accomplishments and careers have brought honor and distinction to the university. CSUB Alumni Association President Jewelle Scales said, “Every time the Alumni Association recognizes an alumni with this honor, it showcases the impact that CSUB has had on the life of the individual and further validates the importance of having an institution of higher learning in our community.”

The 2014 CSUB Alumni Hall of Fame inductees: John Nilon, Audrey Cochran, Lynne Hall, and Russell Judd.
Quality of life matters

We’ve all heard the negatives about living in this area: the air quality is among the worst in the nation, health indicators of residents are poor, teen pregnancy rates are disproportionately high, and the list goes on. The School of Social Sciences and Education at CSU Bakersfield has set out on an important new initiative to address these concerns. In fact, they’re on a mission to turn quality of life around in Kern County.

The goal of the Quality of Life Center (QOL) at CSUB is to bring the right people from the university together with the right people from the community to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region. The QOL Center will provide useful information on quality of life in the Central Valley by initiating innovative research, hosting community forums, and developing intervention projects that aim to increase quality of life in our community with the help of local stakeholders.

The idea for the center was born about four years ago, when Dr. Kathleen Knutzen took the reins as Dean at the School of Social Sciences and Education. As one of her first orders of business, Dean Knutzen met with faculty to discuss ways the school could have a greater impact in the community. Since then, plans for the center have grown and formalized.

“This center is an important way for campus professionals who work on these issues to come together and reach out to the community, offering themselves as a resource,” says Dr. Steve Bacon, Associate Dean in the School of Social Sciences and Education. “For example, we often hear how difficult it is for employers to attract and retain good employees due to some of these quality of life challenges. At the QOL Center, we will work with employers and community leaders to make Kern County a place where people want to settle and raise their families.”

One service the center plans to offer is a published annual report, or “score card” where community-wide quality of life indicators will be measured and can be compared year after year. With this type of information, the most important quality of life targets and their needed interventions can be identified and tracked over time.

Challenges lie ahead, however, chief among them being those who don’t believe this work can be done or that measuring quality of life is important. After all, how do you measure something as intangible as happiness? Bacon responds that there are good, valid measures of quality of life that predict outcomes that are important to people. Naysayers might think that the economic indicators we all know, like unemployment rates, housing prices, and average family income, are enough to gauge the health of our region. According to Bacon, quality of life measures are a supplement, not a replacement for these economic indicators. Measuring the seemingly intangible aspects of wellbeing adds critical information to how people are doing. In fact, Bacon says, “On average, happy people live seven years longer than unhappy people” — a fact not predicted by economics alone.

As Bacon says, “There isn’t a comprehensive resource like the QOL Center that we are proposing anywhere else in the region. There are some great partnerships out there, but we want to be an incubator that brings these innovators together under one roof. We want to provide a ‘one stop shop’ for identifying, studying, and then addressing quality of life issues.”

Another hurdle is securing the necessary funding. But the QOL Center is making headway. An initial grant from the California Endowment has been awarded and will enable the first Runner Wellness class which will be offered beginning Fall of 2014. Runner Wellness is a first of its kind at CSUB; a holistic wellness class that will teach students to look at many aspects of wellness, including emotional, physical, nutritional, and the way they work together. Students’ progress through the class will be tracked and the benefits they obtain compared to a group of students not taking the class.

Runner Wellness is the first foray of the QOL Center, which will expand in the 2014-2015 academic year, followed by its first annual report with hard data on the quality of life in the region in 2015-2016, Bacon says, “This class is a small piece of a bigger picture. We are hoping to attract more grants and more projects so we can work as partners with the community to positively impact more people’s lives.”

The QOL Center invites community members and businesses to provide input and expertise. In the months to come, Bacon will begin to construct an advisory board and work with community members to develop a strategic plan for the center. To get more information or to make contributions to the QOL Center at CSU Bakersfield, please contact Dr. Steve Bacon at sbacon@csub.edu or 661-654-6710.

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Fitness is one of many aspects of holistic wellness to be covered in "Runner Wellness" a class that will be offered beginning in the fall, as the first foray of the Quality of Life Center. Pictured above, runners take off in a 5K run at Celebrate CSUB.
SPECIAL SECTION

CSUB celebrates the 75th anniversary of "The Grapes of Wrath"
What started out as a plan to hold an academic conference in honor of the 75th anniversary of "The Grapes of Wrath" resulted in a yearlong celebration that began in January 2014. "I had no idea that the community would respond so warmly," said Dr. Richard Collins, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities at CSUB. "But now the event has grown into a slate of events, both entertaining and educational."

The celebration was officially launched in February, but was preempted by two events at the Walter Stiern Library in January and was followed by a successful "Dust Bowl Day" at CSUB in March.

Walter presents: A really good time
The Bluegrass band Sisters Grim blasted out a selection of very traditional tunes to a hundred or so literature lovers early this quarter in the Dezember Reading Room of the Walter Stiern Library. A fiddle, a mandolin, a banjo, an upright bass, and a guitar, all brought together by the rich harmonic voice of the lead singer Angelica Grim, gave the audience a taste of the music that was playing on the radio and in the dancehalls for the Dust Bowl era migrants of the 1930s.

CSUB Musicologist Joel Haney kicked off the January Walter Presents event with an introduction to the music of the Great Depression, describing the evolution of songs that were originally called “hillbilly music” and which steadily evolved into the country music that is indigenous to California and Bakersfield, due largely to the influence of the Dust Bowl Era migration.

According to Curt Asher, Interim Dean of the Walter Stiern Library and the host and organizer of the Music of the Great Depression event, “Understanding this music is central to understanding the whole experience of the Dust Bowl migration. It is the heartfelt poetry of a people living in a hardscrabble world.”

The library is also exhibiting photos from the Dust Bowl era taken by famed photographer Dorothea Lang.

If Steinbeck was a farmer?
The Kegley Institute of Ethics at CSUB continued its celebration of John Steinbeck’s "The Grapes of Wrath" novel with special guest speaker David "Mas" Masumoto, who presented a theory of how Steinbeck might have written his book if he were a farmer. He also discussed how Steinbeck might have viewed the larger culture of farming in the valley if he were a farmer today.

"If Steinbeck wrote about [farming] and he wrote about California, it would be about Latinos more than anything," Masumoto said. "The journey and struggle that farmworkers go through would be part of this story of Latinos, and woven into it would be the larger context of change in agriculture at the same time."

One central theme was the relationship between farm workers and farming, specifically, how there is a spiritual connection with those cultivating the Earth that Masumoto argued Steinbeck would have encountered if he were a farmer. Tying together technology and farming, Masumoto suggested Steinbeck might have written about the deterioration of spirituality between farmworkers and the Earth.

"I think Steinbeck the farmer would have been..."
Buddhist. I think he would agree with me that the role of new technology and tractors on the farm loses some of that spirituality," he said.

Food inequality was also a topic Steinbeck was concerned with, according to Masumoto, noting that Steinbeck grappled with the contradiction of poverty in an environment where food is plentiful, yet those who grow it are often the ones that go hungry.

"Unlike other places in the world, issues of hunger aren’t a supply issue here. We’re surrounded by food. So there has to be something else going on," said Jill England of Community Development, United Way of Kern County.

Aaron Hegde, Director of CSUB’s Environmental Resource Management Program, noted how hunger is even more prevalent among low-income families with statistics showing that one in two families go hungry. Hegde urged people to not only advocate change, but also take action by not wasting food and supporting shelters.

"This idea of poverty and hunger go hand-in-hand," Hegde said. "It seems like we are in this bountiful farming community, but there are more hungry people here than anywhere else."

Gala and concert mark official “Grapes of Wrath” kick-off

American roots rock-scene performer, Dave Alvin, helped officially kick off the year-long CSUB celebration of “The Grapes of Wrath” with a Dust Bowl inspired concert in early February at the Bakersfield Fox Theater.

Alvin put together a set designed specifically for our celebration, with both traditional songs from Woody Guthrie to Merle Haggard, along with his own development of Southern California country music," said Collins. "His performance of Haggard’s ‘Kern River’ was particularly moving."

The concert was followed by a free showing of John Ford’s film of The Grapes of Wrath, a rare chance to see the original film on the big screen, with over 500 people attending.

Dust Bowl Day

In mid-March, CSUB hosted “Dust Bowl Day,” where many community members were able to visit the campus and take part in Dust Bowl Era themed activities.

Thanks to a $30,000 grant from Pacific Gas and Electric, the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering (NSME) hosted “Science of the Dust Bowl.” This family friendly event geared towards children in kindergarten through 6th grades, allowed families to explore how fun science can be, with presentations and activities provided by the departments of NSME, which included a ‘Chemistry Circus’ and a demonstration on static electricity.

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Make advanced education part of your cultural blueprint

Standing out in today’s job market is one of the keys to success for new graduates, and those with advanced degrees are more competitive among their peers. As such, the Graduate Student Center is promoting higher education education or getting ready to take that last step,” said Thompson.

The first portion of the open house was a meet-and-greet with tables lining the walls of the student union multipurpose room, featuring representatives from various campus groups like the Student Recreation Center and the Student Health and Counseling Centers. Thompson wanted potential students who may be unfamiliar with the campus to see some of the services available, made possible by student fees. “Last year, there was no resource fair element and so a lot of graduate students didn’t see what’s available,” Thompson said. “I really wanted to move away from the presentation format and make it more of an open house.”

Dr. Jean West from the Master’s in Business and Administration program in the School of Business and Public Administration at CSUB was on hand during the social hour to answer questions from prospective students before the information breakout sessions. As one of the most popular graduate programs at CSUB, an MBA degree, explains West, is very versatile and offers students a variety of options.

Accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the MBA program draws a lot of interest from students and employers, according to West. The accreditation is one that only 5 percent of business schools around the world have, which gives the program credibility.

MBA students Cathryn Beer and Marcy Frevert both chose the MBA program not only for the affordability, but also the quality of the education and professors. “There are a lot of different ages and a lot of different backgrounds so in class we have really great discussions,” Beer said. “I also think the teachers are very dedicated to the students.”

Dr. Soraya Coley, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at CSUB, discussed how larger universities are not always able to provide the personal attention necessary for building close mentorships with professors, but that at CSUB, class sizes are smaller, enabling more one-on-one time with professors. “You’re going to be working along outstanding faculty. You’ll have smaller classes and have a chance for engaged learning experiences and will work with them on research projects, attend conferences, and make presentations,” Coley said. “They will help you grow professionally in whatever field you are pursuing.”

To learn more about increasing your potential with an advanced degree from CSUB, speak with a counselor at the Graduate Student Center, and make an investment in your future.
CSUB celebrates Black History Month

Unity through diversity

In honor of Black History Month at California State University, Bakersfield, a series of events was held during the month of February, highlighting the arts, the history, as well as the adversity and triumph of black culture. With special guest speakers and culturally driven social events, the campus community was invited to experience and participate in the uniqueness of African-American culture.

California Poet Laureate Al Young visited the Walter Stiern Library to share a series of poems from his featured works, many celebrating African-American people, their culture, and their influence on the literary and visual arts.

Young further expressed how artistic endeavors are the hallmark of any society and how we as a collective people should embrace our diversity and celebrate it. “We tend to think that it’s about armed forces and military might, but what you’re remembered for are your plays and your music and your paintings, sculptures, dances, and movies,” said Young. “This is what holds people, endears people, to a given culture.”

With each reading, he illustrated concepts like love, hope, pride, and resiliency through rhythmic folk tales strung together by lines of text. He also touched on black culture in various forms through stories about black people, like his poem for actress, entertainer, and activist Lena Horne. His words painted a portrait of the film industry in the early part of the twentieth century and how black entertainers, especially women, faced discrimination around every bend.

Speaking on the association of Black History Month and African-American literature, Young emphasized how such labels, including Native American and Latino-American literature, should also be considered as contributions to the fabric of American culture as a whole rather than as an outside branch of what is American literature. “You’re actually reading American literature but you’re looking through a different window of the same house, sometimes through the back door, because we all are inexplicably a part of one another,” said Young.

Paving the way

While each event offered varied experiences for campus and community attendees, the Project Best Conference, hosted by Black Men on Campus, promoted an event for young black males in high school to learn more about college. The club facilitated a panel of current black students from CSUB to provide an opportunity for potential college students to ask about classes or the social dynamics of life at the university. Club president Micheal Ogundare said he wanted to offer a “big brother” experience and dispel any fears or myths about going to college, reassuring potential students that college success is achievable.

Ogundare said that hearing students tell him and the other club members they made a difference in their decisions to attend college was worth all the effort. He added how black history month events are a great way for people “not really in tune with African culture, to get a sense of it” and that it’s good for black students on campus to “experience perspectives they may not be familiar with and learn more about their history.”

The human spirit

Foreign correspondent Ann Simmons was on her way to celebrate the new year with colleagues in Baghdad, Iraq, when a suicide bomber drove into the restaurant they were approaching, leaving her barely conscious, covered in debris, and fighting for her life.

As Simmons shared her story of survival when she spoke before the CSUB community, she also reiterated a life appreciated by acknowledging the achievement of her life-long goal to travel and write about different cultures of the world. And while she suffered immensely from the blast, see BHM page 16
she wasn’t about to give up on her passion. "All that didn’t prevent me from wanting to do correspondent work. And I, in fact, returned to Iraq after that a journey of enlightenment. Whether it was covering a political coup d’état in Russia or wars in Africa, her appearance was constantly an to the men in some cultures. "You’ve got to embrace people’s culture, whether or not you agree with it. That’s so important in terms of building

"You’ve got to embrace people’s culture, whether or not you agree with it. That’s so important in terms of building tolerance among people."

experience because I didn’t want that to be my defining experience from that country," Simmons said. "It’s almost like when you fall off a horse. They say you have got to get back on again. . . . I feel that I’m continuing to ride and I’ll continue to do so."

Simmons shared how the adventurous nature of her work for Time Magazine, and then The Los Angeles Times, was issue as, she said, many people had not seen someone like her before. The 6-foot-2-inch, British-born journalist noted how being black exposed her to a lot of discrimination and stereotyping by many cultures around the world. She added that being a woman in a male-dominated profession also provided challenges in areas where women are not socially equal tolerance among people," she said.

During her tenure as the bureau chief of Time’s Nigerian office, she recounted her experiences in West Africa discussing the conflict in Sierra Leone, where rebels were butchering their own people, leaving the survivors without limbs or parts of their face, including a little girl, whom she interviewed.

Pulitzer Prize winning Los Angeles Times journalist Ann Simmons shares her story of survival while covering the war in Iraq.
"She was 8 years old, and she told me, 'Well, first of all, I want to wait for my hand to grow back.'" Simmons paused, collecting herself as the audience reacted with an empathetic response. "Every day I think of that. That young girl who just thought once my hand grows back then I can [move on]."

Through all of her experiences and lessons shared, Simmons concluded with words about the Sierra Leone refugees. Their willingness to forgive the rebels for their actions showed her the power of what people are capable of. The desire to unify their people by offering amnesty was a message she wanted everyone to understand. "It really says so much about the human spirit, and I think that's what helps me to maintain my kind of level of cheerfulness," said Simmons.

### Living the dream

Cora Jordan didn’t hold anything back when she shared her story of hope and triumph. Openly addressing the subjects of racial stigmas and discrimination, she relived her experiences growing up in segregated America during the Jim Crow era, as well as through the Civil Rights movements and into the modern era, too.

As part of the Brown Bag Discussion series, which highlights exceptional individuals, Jordan’s informal look at the history of racism in America offered students, faculty, and members of the community a first-hand experience of issues many may have never experienced.

Jordan described a period in her life when she was a student studying nursing in Texas during the late 1940s and how she experienced hostility from white patients who would adamantly refuse her help. Overt racial discrimination was part of the mainstream culture and she focused on how black people were treated and expected to act.

Her aunt, who worked for a white family, was not allowed to socialize with the family nor eat with them. Instead, her aunt was relegated to her quarters when the family was around and only offered leftovers of the food she cooked. Jordan would often visit her as a youth and remembered being angry at the display of social injustice. "I couldn’t understand why we were treated that way," said Jordan, adding that she got into an argument once with her aunt’s employer over the undignified treatment of her aunt, nearly getting her fired in the process.

But the message of this 85-year-old granddaughter of a slave, even though told through stories of intolerance, was still one of hope and perseverance. She would eventually become a foster parent in 1962 and throughout the years would share her home with 36 foster children of various races, including two teenagers currently in her care.

As Jordan reflected on a lifetime of racial discrimination, she discussed how the Civil Rights movement that changed the context of American culture today was not only for black people but for all minorities to progress forward. "It's not where I came from, but where I'm going," Jordan said.

Cora Jordan shared her story of hope and triumph during the Civil Rights movements era at the February Brown Bag Discussion.

“It’s not where I came from, but where I’m going.”
Hot Stove Dinner raises funds for the CSUB Baseball Team

Homerun from the Roadrunner Baseball team! From silent auctions to live auctions, the CSUB Baseball team, at the inaugural Hot Stove Dinner, held in February, successfully raised approximately $80,000.

Hundreds of community members and alumni came together to support the CSUB baseball team. “The Hot Stove Dinner is a good time to get the baseball community to support CSU Bakersfield baseball,” said George Culver, a former major league pitcher who helped organize the event. “When you support CSUB baseball, you support the whole town.”

Los Angeles Dodger Major League legend Tommy John was the keynote speaker at the event. He shared his story of struggle and triumph. After damaging the ulnar collateral ligament in his pitching arm, John’s possibilities of pitching again were low. In September of 1974, he went to Dr. Frank Jobe, who performed an ulnar collateral ligament surgery, which is now named the Tommy John Surgery. After the surgery, Tommy practiced and worked hard to ultimately make it back into the game. During his speech at the Hot Stove Dinner, Johns said, “Not everyone is going to be a winner, a champion, a .300 hitter. The whole idea is to compete.”

Golf program strives for success

Great things are happening in the CSUB Golf Program. In January, Rio Bravo Country Club helped the CSUB Golf family with the Inaugural CSUB Par 3 Championship, an event that brought together the community to raise funds for travel, equipment, and scholarships for the CSUB golf players.

The CSUB Par 3 Championship is a way for golf students to connect with
find what your failings are and work on them. Keep going!

John’s advice and experience gave the Roadrunners motivation to keep following their dreams. “Tommy John is a legend. With his surgery and all, he still made it big. That’s an inspiration. He is a great role model,” said Alec Daily, CSUB student and Roadrunner baseball player.

Roadrunner baseball alumni members did not pass up the opportunity to support this event. Jeremy Rodriguez, who was drafted by the San Diego Padres in 2011, said, “This baseball team is family to me and to all the returning alumni. As alumni, we want to give back.”

Showing their appreciation and gratitude, the Roadrunner baseball team ended the night by serving dinner. Laughs, smiles, advice, and encouragement were exchanged throughout the event, making the CSUB alumni, community, and players’ stronger supporters of CSUB.

"The amount of support shown that day just proves how generous and excited people are about our Golf Program.”

The CSU Bakersfield golf program has proven to be successful on the course. But, to be truly successful, representatives of the program are aiming to create relationships within the community. “We want to earn the respect and support of all the golfers in Bakersfield,” said the CSUB golf program Coach, Greg Osbourne.

Steve Rader, CEO of Clarity Partners Group, pledged to match up to $50,000 in donations. With the help of the community, not only was this amount matched, but it was surpassed for a total of $130,000. Radar said, “There aren’t a lot of funds for golf programs, but that isn’t going to stop the enthusiasm of the supporters to come out. I said ‘I’ll match up $50,000 and let’s get some community support!’ Here we are!”

"The whole idea is to compete, find what your failings are and work on them. Keep going!”

Associate Athletics Director Karen Langston with Hot Stove guest speaker Tommy John, Los Angeles Dodger Major League legend.

"The amount of support shown that day just proves how generous and excited people are about our Golf Program.”

Former CSUB Basketball player and Alumnus Vance Palm makes a hole in one.
The future of the Region
This new, special section of Your CSUB Magazine will explore what the future of this region may look like as seen through several different lenses.

In this Issue, CSUB Alumnus Congressman Kevin McCarthy (BS Marketing '89, MBA '94) shares his thoughts on the future of our region.

Born and raised in Bakersfield, Congressman Kevin McCarthy has lived his entire life in the Central Valley and has always believed that this region will lead our nation’s efforts to build the next great American century. “There is enormous opportunity on the horizon that we can cultivate today for tomorrow’s generation,” said McCarthy. “The ingenuity of free minds that have led to technological advancements and new innovative techniques are transforming industries that form the pillars of our region – energy, agriculture, and aerospace.”

For McCarthy, Kern County is just the place to develop such opportunities because he believes the region embodies the American spirit of risk-taking and perseverance. After all, it was this spirit that established one of the strongest energy-producing regions in the country and led pioneers of the air to break the sound barrier and go to space.

However, the central valley region also faces real regulatory challenges and obstacles that impact the health of our regional economy and that must be taken seriously, according to McCarthy. But, he believes institutions such as CSU Bakersfield offer a model of public-private partnerships that are necessary to ready our region and state for economic prosperity. He praises CSUB President Dr. Horace Mitchell for correctly identifying the importance our local university will play in educating and providing the technical skills necessary to support our local energy sector.

According to McCarthy, “The energy industry is one of Kern County’s most important with its influence reverberating throughout our country; there is an energy renaissance underway unlocking previously trapped oil and gas resources underground. Within this shifting landscape, California remains one of the leading oil and natural gas producers. And with the potential of the Monterey shale formation to extensively add to America’s energy portfolio, our state and community have the ability to shape the direction of America’s energy policy. CSUB’s contribution is critical to this process.”

McCarthy is doing his part to help increase the knowledge in the community of CSUB’s importance to our region. He recently was honored that his friend, world-renowned innovator and entrepreneur Elon Musk, accepted his invitation to speak at CSUB to discuss how the private sector is now taking the lead in the next century of aerospace advancement.

“Kern County and the Antelope Valley have had, and continue to have, long and rich contributions in aerospace – whether it is Neil Armstrong’s time as a test pilot at the NASA Flight Research Center or Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier,” said McCarthy. “That legacy of amazing achievements continues from Lancaster to Mojave to Ridgecrest. Today, we are pioneering commercial reusable systems to reduce the high cost of launching Americans into space or exploring our solar system. Over the last 50 years, about 500 humans have been to space. With the burgeoning commercial space market, that number could double over the next decade. The next U.S. astronauts to fly to space on American rockets will do so because of this new public-private model that is blossoming right here in our backyard.”

As for how CSUB will tie into Kern County’s future, McCarthy states that, “the future of our region rests on fostering the innovative spirit that forms the foundation of our success. And when I look to the next decade and beyond, CSUB has a unique role in shaping that future.”

McCarthy is doing his part to help increase the knowledge in the community of CSUB’s importance to our region. He was honored that his friend, world-renowned innovator and entrepreneur Elon Musk, accepted his invitation to speak at CSUB to discuss how the private sector is now taking the lead in the next century of aerospace advancement.
Growing up, the Zaninovich brothers – George, Andy and Damian – were always exposed to the importance of fine arts and education. After all, their mother Dorothy always had a love of fine arts, particularly Renaissance masters and Italian grand opera. She stressed the importance of education in broadening one’s horizons and achieving one’s goals, as instilled by her immigrant parents. So after her passing, the Zaninovich sons saw it fit to commemorate their mother’s many talents and interests, along with her generous heart, by establishing the Dorothy Florence Zaninovich Visiting Artist Series Endowment at CSU Bakersfield.

“We wanted to find a way to help promote the cultural events in our area, as well as inspire our youth to pursue careers in the arts,” said George Zaninovich.

Dorothy’s story began in the 1920’s when her parents made the journey to the United States from the island of Vis off the Dalmatian coast, now the country of Croatia. The family eventually settled in San Pedro, California, as had many others from their island, where work was found on fishing boats, canneries, and loading docks. While her parents worked, Dorothy attended school.

“Her parents sacrificed to further their only child’s education, and Dorothy went on to receive her degree from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles,” said George. “She then taught at Hollywood High School until her marriage to Vincent M. Zaninovich in 1948.”

Vincent emigrated from the Dalmatian island of Hvar, leaving his family at the age of 16. He settled in the Porterville area, where he worked in his uncle’s vineyards. Years later, he and his cousin Martin founded Jasmine Vineyards. Much of the Zaninovich family went on to become farmers in different areas of the central valley, where they not only continue to be successful in business, but in contributing to their communities as well.

In memory of Dorothy’s taste for the arts, and in addition to the endowment in her name at CSUB that will support the Visiting Artist Series, a separate gift will help reinstate “A Taste of the Arts,” both of which in 2014 will be centered around the 75th Anniversary of The Grapes of Wrath Celebration. In addition, George and his wife Manuela, who is a CSUB Psychology Alumna, have established the Dorothy Florence Zaninovich Scholarship Fund, which will be used for scholarships in the School of Arts and Humanities at CSUB.

“We are proud to be able to sponsor these wonderful events,” said George. “It is an honor to be able to provide scholarships for deserving underprivileged students in the CSUB School of Arts and Humanities in Dorothy’s name.”
‘80s

STEVEN DAY (‘83 BS Business Administration) is employed by Disney Interactive and is the Senior Quality Assurance Analyst.

NONA LUCILLE DARLING (‘90 BS Business Administration / Marketing / Marketing Communications) is the President at ASAP! Courier.

CLIFFORD F LOADER II (‘94 BS Business Administration) is the Chief Financial Officer at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center.

KEVIN JAMES CROSBY (‘96 BA History) is a teacher for the Kern High School District.

LORI WEAR (‘95 BA Anthropology) is employed at the Kern County Museum as a Curator.

ROBERT LUMIS (‘92 & ’08 BA/MBA Business Administration) is a Systems Coordinator at State Farm Insurance.

‘90s

LUZ M. ALVAREZ (‘00 BA Liberal Studies) is employed at Palmdale School District as an Elementary School Teacher. She was nominated and selected as the CABE (California Association of Bilingual Education) Teacher of the Year 2014. Her recognition will take place on April 3, 2014 at the Marriott in Anaheim, CA.

DAVID LOOMIS (‘03 BA Sociology) is employed at State Farm Insurance and is a Human Resources Recruiter.

KIMBERLY CECILIA CANFIELD (‘05 BA Political Science) is the Grants Manager at Peter G. Peterson Foundation.

CHRISTOPHER HINTON (‘00 BS Chemistry) is employed by Boston College as a Research Scientist.

SARAH MARTIN (‘03 BA Political Science) is working at the University of Missouri. She recently moved to Kansas City, MO to accept a tenure-track Assistant Professor position at the Henry W. Bloch School of Management. She researches and teaches in the field of Health Economics. Also, she graduated with a PhD, MPP and MPH in 2013 from UC Berkeley.

ROBIN CHRISTINA ANDERSON (‘04 BSN Nursing) is a RN for the Bakersfield Heart Hospital.

RUSSELL BECK (‘04 BA Business Administration General Management) is employed by Tri-Technic, Inc. and is the Electrical Project Manager.

‘00s

LEILA BAJUNAID (‘11 BA Political Science) is currently on her last semester of law school. After graduating and passing the bar exam, She will officially be a lawyer in the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

EVABELEN VENTURA (‘11 BA Communications) is currently finishing the Masters in Public Administration while working at CSUB Admissions and Records as a recently hired Evaluator.

KAREN K. RIENZO (‘12 BA English Literature) is working for Mandelin as an Executive Assistant.

JACKIE BOSWELL (‘11 BA Sociology) is a Special Ed Teacher for the...
Lancaster School District. She finished the Special Ed Credential Program in November 2013. She is currently working on her Masters and on her 2nd credential.

SCOTT S. REED ('10 BA History/Teaching cred.) is a teacher at Greenfield Union School District. He obtained his first teaching job at Greenfield Middle School in August 2013.

ESTHER LOUISE DRAUCKER ('14 MA Anthropology) is an Adjunct Professor at Taft College.

NICKOLAUS LEE SHANNON ('11 BS Business Administration) states, ‘While attending CSUB, I played on the baseball team and served on several university clubs and committees. I graduated Magna Cum Laude in Business Administration in 2011. Since graduation, I accepted an Investment Manager position for a wealth management firm in Arizona. While there, our firm managed close to $200 million in assets. I recently became engaged to an amazing Midwest gal from Nebraska. As a result, we just moved to Omaha to settle down. Consequently, I accepted a financial advisor position with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. I am really excited about the new opportunity and look forward to helping clients reach their financial goals. I am a proud Alumni and was happy to see our ‘Runners baseball team win the WAC conference championship last season. Go ‘Runners!”

To update your information and be included in class notes, visit www.csub.edu/alumni.