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Sent: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 12:13 PM
To: faculty@list.csub.edu; staff@list.csub.edu; csubretiredfaculty@list.csub.edu
Cc: Jenny Zorn <jzorn@csub.edu>
Subject: Academics is Soaring: August 30, 2017

Colleagues,

The 2017-18 Academic Year is off to a dynamic start. Everyone was busy through the summer with lots of activities and research.

Last week I presented a “State of Academic Affairs” to the faculty and will repeat that presentation in an open forum setting for all of campus. It will be held in the BDC153B at 3:00 on Friday, September 8. The powerpoint presentation can be found at <https://www.csub.edu/provost/University%20Week/index.html>

-The Humanities Complex opened the offices wing at the start of the term and it will take some time for everyone to get unboxed and settled in. The classrooms will be available for use in the spring semester as finishing touches are being made during this term. We will celebrate with a Grand Opening and we’ll also celebrate the demolition of Faculty Towers as it will be demolished during the fall term.

-Two new deans arrived July 1 and have been hard at work. We welcome Bob Frakes to the School of Arts and Humanities and Angappa Gunasekeran (aka Guna) to the School of Business and Public Administration. We thank John Stark and Liora Gubkin who stepped up from their posts as Associate Deans to fill the Interim Dean roles last academic year and now revert back to their positions as Associate Deans. We also thank Debra Jackson and Lori Paris who served as Interim Associate Deans last year and now revert back to their previous positions in the faculty. Following an internal search in the School of Social Sciences and Education Tanya Boone-Holladay was named Associate Dean. Todd McBride continues as the Interim Associate Dean in the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering and an internal search for that position will take place this fall.

-California State University, Bakersfield has moved into the top 10 universities in the United States for master’s degree programs, according to the latest national ranking by Washington Monthly, a D.C.-based magazine. CSUB moved up two spots from last year’s ranking and has risen significantly from its number 87 ranking in 2015.

-The **Public Policy and Administration** program received official notice of reaccreditation by NASPAA. This is a significant acknowledgement of the work that our faculty do and the academic preparation they provide for our students.

-**Isabella Kasselstrand, Sociology**, has three publications and another will be published this fall.

Kasselstrand, Isabella, Tiana Couse, and Shanell Sanchez. 2017. “Institutional Confidence in the United States: Attitudes of Secular Americans.” *Secularism & Nonreligion*, 6:1-11.

Kandlik Eltanani, Mor and Isabella Kasselstrand. 2017. "Academic Friendships: How Working with Fellow Students Can Improve Your Postgraduate Experience." In *Postgraduate Study in the United Kingdom: Surviving and Succeeding*, edited by Chris McMaster, Caterina Murphy, Sue Cronshaw, and Natasha Codiroli-McMaster. Libri Publishing. ISBN: 978-1911450030.

Kasselstrand, Isabella. 2016. "Lived Secularity: Atheism, Indifference, and the Social Significance of Religion." In *Beyond Religion*, edited by Phil Zuckerman. MacMillan Publications. ISBN: 978-0028663548.

-**Mustafah Dhada, History**, published a book review in *English Historical Review* "The Portuguese Massacre of Wiriyamu in Colonial Mozambique, 1964–2013."

-**Tony Rathburn and Dirk Baron, Geological Science Department**, received a three-year, \$294,960 grant from the National Science Foundation for their grant proposal entitled: "Collaborative Research: GP-EXTRA: Oceanographic Shipboard and lab research for diverse students: experiential learning as a gateway to geoscience careers." This is a collaborative project with Dr. Richard Norris, UC San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Dr. Sarah Gray, University of San Diego.

-California State University, Bakersfield partnered with Bank of America to teach Better Money Habits (bettermoneyhabits.com) to students from Washington Middle School of the Bakersfield City School District (BCSD). Two CSUB students from the **Accounting and Finance Department** taught the younger students valuable lessons on saving, investing and banking.

-Jackie Kegley presented a paper, "Pragmatism and the 'Other Kant,' Kant as Public Intellectual and Political Theorist" at the Berlin Forum where she was one of three Americans to participate.

-CSUB students were among 228 student applications for the California Pre-Doctoral Program. Three CSUB students were selected to be among the 75 Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Scholars for 2017-18:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Faculty Mentor</u>	<u>Department</u>
Ms. Moriah Cobb	Dr. Amy Gancarz-Kausch	Psychology
Mr. Alejandro Cruz	Dr. Matthew Leon	Psychology
Ms. Jazmine Mejia Munoz	Dr. Antje Lauer	Biology

-This July, **Heather Simmons** was presented with the Larry Streeter Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000 cash) at the National Federation of the Blind's annual convention in Orlando, Florida. Heather graduated in May of this year as the **Outstanding Senior of the Department of English**.

-**Matt Woodman, English Department** created an online literary journal with two CSUB creative writing students (Mateo Lara and Chyna Parker). *Rabid Oak* (rabidoak.com) is an online literary journal created to give Bakersfield and Kern County a literary outlet with local "flavor," as it were, and the first issue has just gone live. Matt urges us to please suggest they send authors' work to him; "we'd love to read it."

-The first mass disbursement for fall 2017 financial aid disbursed \$36.7 million to 6509 students! This is in excess of \$5 million higher than what we initially disbursed for the previous fall. This disbursement is the culminating event in months of preparation including; annual database set-up, processing verification paperwork, correcting discrepancies, updating business processes and awarding students. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the perseverance, dedication, hard work and commitment to student success from our staff.

-**Madhavappallil Thomas, Social Work**, published a co-authored paper with Manohar Pawar on “Social work education in Australia and the USA: comparative perspectives and contemporary issues.

The international Journal of Social Work Education ,2017, 36 (7).

-In our first appearance at the national convention of Phi Beta Delta, the Honor Society for International Scholars our faculty, staff, and student were recognized for their presentations. **Di Wu and Ji Li, Accounting and Finance Department** received the Best Faculty Poster Presentation for their poster “Engaging Accounting Students in International Business Education.” From the **Kegley Center: Luiza Martins** received the Best Student Paper Presentation for her presentation “R.A.P. –Home for International Student-Athletes” and **Rosemary Stribling** received the Best Faculty Paper Presentation for her presentation “R.A.P. – Home for International Student-Athletes.”

In this year of “Inspiring Excellence, Transforming Lives” it is great to be a ‘Runner!

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs