

Academics is Soaring: February, 2016

Colleagues,

I share with you several noteworthy events from our academic campus community.

-The **Ethics Bowl**, in its first appearance, won the regional competition. This weekend they traveled to Washington, DC and brought home more hardware! They made it to the quarterfinals where one of the students reported that they faced a formidable US Naval Academy who sunk J their chances to move on to the semifinals! Faculty member **Debra Jackson, Philosophy**, was the team advisor. Congratulations to all and thanks for representing us so well!

-CSUB hosted the 24th Annual Kern County Regional **Science Bowl** on February 13 with 31 teams competing with 160 students, 74 volunteers, and nearly 60 friends and family on campus. Thanks to **Chemistry Professor Roy LaFever** who is the faculty coordinator for this event.

-The **Department of Teacher Education** hosted more than 200 K-12 teachers for a workshop “**Choose Your Own Edventure: Technology in the Classroom**” as part of their Residency Program for K-12 teachers. The workshops I attended were lively and informative for the teachers. These are the types of programs that serve our educational community and build on our partnerships.

-The **Nursing Department** hosted a successful site visit and received a positive review by the visiting team. The Masters in Nursing is now accredited by CCNE!!!!

-A record number of **graduation checks** are being processed for over **1700** students! All of your work to help those students complete their degrees during the quarter system has paid off and we will see a record number walk across the stage this June!

-A student art and creative writing project “**Writing into Color. Color into Writing**” was a collaboration of **Matthew Woodman, English Department** and **Matthew Rich, Art Department**. The painting class painted colored squares and the creative writing students then wrote poems from their interpretation of the colors. And other creative writing students wrote poems that other painters interpreted in colored squares. I was impressed with this interdisciplinary classroom concept and the poetry was especially moving.

-The **History Department and the Library** continue to collaborate on academic talks in the Dezember Reading Room. The latest was **Mustafah Dhada, History Department** and his talk on his research in Mozambique where I learned a great deal about the country and its history.

-The **Geology Department** hosted a fascinating talk by **Geologist Jerome DeGraff “Fire, Earth & Rain: Emergency response for Wildfire-Induced Landslide Hazards”** that was specific to our region and personal to me as I experienced the mudslide on Highway 58 back in October.

-The **Music and Theatre Departments** have produced some entertaining shows this fall and the latest I was able to enjoy was the **Opera Theatre**.

-**Dean Richard Collins** was selected to serve on the Executive Board of **California Humanities** and recently was named to the Executive Committee, serving as Chair of the Audit Committee. This 40-year-old organization supports the humanities in our state with the mission “To connect Californians to ideas and one another in order to understand our shared heritage and diverse cultures, inspire civic participation, and shape our future.”

-Our Iota chapter of **Alpha Chi**, the National College Honor Scholarship Society, has been named a Star Chapter for 2014-15, a recognition achieved by fewer than one-fifth of the chapters across the nation. **Philosophy Department Professor, Jackie Kegley** serves as their advisor.

All of these are great accomplishments that represent the hard work of our **students**, the impressive contributions of the **staff**, and the academic rigor established by our **faculty**.

Proud, proud, proud of CSUB!

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: March 7, 2016

Colleagues:

The past two weeks we have seen more academic accomplishments at CSUB:

-**Becky Larson and the Mathematics Department** hosted fifteen junior high and middle schools brought 132 students from Bakersfield, Ridgecrest, McFarland, and Bishop to compete in the 2016 Kern County MATHCOUNTS chapter competition on Friday, Feb. 19. In the afternoon, they gathered in the BDC to compete in 3 rounds (2 individually and 1 in teams), where they worked on challenging problem sets. In the evening, the top 10 students from the afternoon competed head-to-head on the stage in the Dore' Theater and in front of an audience.

Our chapter is sending our 2 top teams and 3 top individual students (called "independents") to compete in the Southern California state competition on Saturday, March 12, at UC Irvine.

And the high school Leland Webb Math Field Day competition will compete on campus Saturday, March 12.

-Congratulations to The Runner for receiving several awards! **Jennifer Burger**, the adviser for The Runner newspaper, and 10 staff members attended the Associated Collegiate Press convention and California College Media Association banquet. Under the leadership of Editor-in-Chief **Esteban Ramirez**, The Runner won seven awards!

California College Media Association:

1st Place, Best Sports Photo: **AJ Alvarado**

3rd Place, Best Photo Series: **AJ Alvarado**

3rd Place, Best Sports Story: **Esteban Ramirez**

Honorable Mention, Best A&E Story: **Shelby Parker**

3rd Place, Best Special Issue 40th Anniversary Issue

Honorable Mention, Best Website, The Runner Online

Best of Show contest, Associated Collegiate Press:

7th Place, Best Website - Small School for The Runner Online

-The **Department of Economics** hosted a student simulation of a Federal Open Market Committee meeting. **Dr. Margaret Malixi** organized the event that included experts in the Federal Reserve System.

-The **Office of Grants, Research, and Sponsored Programs** hosted the Seventeenth Annual Student Research Competition. I was able to observe presentations by students in Biology, Chemistry, Sociology, and Engineering. I was impressed with the quality of the research and presentations. The faculty have clearly mentored the students very well and I look forward to the system-wide research conference that we will host next month!

-**Judy Pedro and Phyllis Heintz** from **Nursing** were awarded grants totaling nearly \$270,000 from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The award process includes a review of the written proposals and a day of oral presentations that can either enhance or harm their point scores from the written proposal.

-**Kris Grappendorf, Chair of the Kinesiology Department** is leading the Physical Education and Kinesiology Department program with Kaiser Permanente. The Runner Read and Ride Program is a partnership with Buttonwillow Union School District combining reading and riding. Since the program launched students acquired more than 10,000 minutes of reading and riding at the same time over the course of five weeks and it has driven the students to a greater desire to read.

-**The Kegley Institute** sponsored a presentation: "Race, Religion and U.S. Politics: Issues on Immigration," featuring Miguel De La Torre, Iliff Professor of Social Ethics and Latino/a Studies at Iliff School of Theology. The discussion was thought provoking on timely and important issues of our times.

-I thoroughly enjoyed the discussion and interaction with the Philosophy Department at a research colloquium with **Philosophy Professor, Jackie Kegley** who presented her latest research. I was impressed with the student and faculty open debate and insights as we all wrestled with the concepts Dr. Kegley introduced.

-**"Theatre of New Voices,"** a series of One-Act Plays Written and Directed by **Theatre Arts and Music** Students in the Dore' Arena Theatre were a delightful mixture of intrigue, suspense, deep-thoughts, and comedy. They were completely written, directed, acted, and produced by students, including the musical compositions too.

-**Emerson Case from the English Department** announced, "with a big splash," the 2016-17 One Book selection for Kern County high school, community college, and CSUB "The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water" by Charles Fishman.

-The **English Department** also hosted the "Unmasking Best Practices." Building Bridges Conference, the 26th year of collaboration with Kern County High Schools, Community Colleges, and CSUB. The conference was expertly organized again by **Kim Flachmann** and was focused on writing and reading, general education, and English education.

Proudly,

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: March 28, 2016

Colleagues:

The last Winter Quarter for CSUB is in the books now. We ended with a flourish with a number of notable academic accolades.

-A recent visit to campus from a 2015 graduate provided a testimonial to the great work we do here at CSUB. She is completing her Masters degree at a UC this spring and has been offered an internship in Washington, DC. She spoke with a CSUB administrator and reflected back on her years at CSUB and said it was a great education, far better than what she saw the undergraduates at the UC were receiving, saying most undergraduates there never get to see their professors, they are taught by graduate teaching assistants. She spoke of how she valued all of the dedicated faculty who truly cared about her success and the staff who were supportive of her when she could easily have felt like she didn't fit in.

-Below is a listing of the winners of the California State University Bakersfield Student Research Competition which was held on Friday, March 4, 2016. Please join us in celebrating the wonderful work of our students done under the supervision of our **faculty**. Some of these winners will represent CSUB at the CSU Statewide research competition to be held on our campus on April 29 and 30, 2016. Thanks to **GRASP** for organizing the event and competition.

CSUB - Student Research Competition Winners 2016

Physical and Mathematical Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Nkiruka Oragwam (*Chemistry*)

2nd Place – David-Allen Alvarez (*Geology*)

[Graduates]

1st Place – [Tie] Rachel Tiner (*Geology*)
Jordan Martin (*Geology*)

Engineering and Computer Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Sheriff Sadiqbacha (*Computer Engineering*)

2nd Place – Alex Ramirez (*Electrical Engineering*)

Biological and Agricultural Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Rachel Oldfield (*Chemistry*)

[Graduates]

1st Place – David Salisbury (*Biology*)



Behavioral and Social Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Andrew Suter (*Psychology & Biology*)

2nd Place – [Tie] Hala Alnajjar (*Sociology*)
Samirah Hussein (*Psychology*)

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

-The **College of Business and Public Administration** began a new professional development initiative with community partners. More than twenty community partners participated in mock interviews and mentoring of students to bring **Dean Kalfayan's** vision to reality.

-**Sophia Adjaye from the English Department** coordinated this quarter's event, a talk in The Warren Family Lectures in Language and Linguistics (L3) series on February 18. The guest lecturer was Sharese King (Ph.D. candidate) of Stanford University, and her topic was Rachel Jeantel on Trial in the Case of George Zimmerman.

- The **School of Arts and Humanities advising team** was selected to present their proposal "Do Minors Matter: Analysis and perceptions of requiring a minor" at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Region 9 conference in Los Angeles March 15-16. Led by **Dr. Anna Laven** and including advising staff **Adriana Sixtos, Christina Chavez and Janine Cornelison**, the team sought to better understand the positive and negative impacts of the minor requirement as the school began to consider making minors optional. The research project contributes to the literature by bringing to the forefront another facet of curricular life that can impact retention and graduation rates beyond that of major selection.

-**Anna Laven, Ed.D., Advising Center Coordinator for the School of Arts and Humanities**, has been invited to serve on the Government Relations Board for the Kern County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. As a member of the Government Relations Committee, Dr. Laven will work to educate, advocate, and take policy positions on issues that affect its members and impact business in the communities of Kern County. She will attend regular board meetings and focus on opportunities that may benefit our students. Thank you for your willingness to serve and contribute!

-**The Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Professor Tim Vivian's** article "Wake the Devil" received The Historical Society of the Episcopal Church's 2015 Nelson R. Burr Prize which honors "that which best exemplifies excellence and innovative scholarship in the field of Anglican and Episcopal history." Two of his reviews also were recently published:

Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence, by Karen Armstrong. *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 51.1 (2016): 129-133.

The Ransom of the Soul: Afterlife and Wealth in Early Western Christianity, by Peter Brown. *American Benedictine Review* 67:1 (March 2016): 114-116.

-Congratulations to **Dr. Debra Jackson (Philosophy)** for the publication of her article, "Throwing Like a Slayer: A Phenomenology of Gender Hybridity and Female Resilience in Buffy the Vampire Slayer" in *Slayage: The Journal of Whedon Studies*, 14.1 [43], Winter 2016.

- A partnership between Cal State Bakersfield and a Los Angeles water treatment company is giving local engineering students real-life experience with one of Kern County's most intractable challenges: how to divert wastewater for economical reuse in agriculture. **Luis Cabrales, an assistant engineering professor** at CSUB, said the program is great because the nine students, all in their senior year, not only receive training from the company but also receive "hands-on experience on real problems."

-The **Department of Physical Education and Kinesiology** led by **Kris Grappendorf** partnered with Buttonwillow Elementary School and Kaiser Permanente on a Runner Read and Ride Program. The middle school students ride on stationary bicycles while reading and the PEAK faculty and students are measuring their fitness

levels. The research is focused on childhood obesity while motivating students to read while they pedal away. Kaiser Permanente funded the bicycles and Fitbits. During the kickoff event I spoke with students who were enthusiastic about the books they were reading and the fun they were having riding the bicycles. I rode 1.5 miles and burnt 58.1 calories during the open house!

-Five student athletes qualified for the **NCAA wrestling championships** in Madison Square Gardens in New York City. Congratulations to **Adam Fierro, Reuben Franklin, Ian Nickell, Bryce Hammond, and Coleman Hammond!** Nickell, Hammond, and Hammond all made it to the quarterfinals before being eliminated today. Great Season, Runners!

-The **Basketball** team won the WAC championships on a buzzer beater to qualify for their first time in the NCAA Championships in just their sixth season of eligibility to compete. They played a great game against number 2 seed Oklahoma (who are still in it, making it to the final four) in front a hometown crowd in Oklahoma City with a few hundred loyal Runner fans supporting them through the final minutes. All of this during finals week where they took exams during their down time in Oklahoma.

Now we're off to our last spring quarter!

Best Regards,

Jenny

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: April 28, 2016

Colleagues:

We have officially transitioned to semesters! This past weekend dozens of staff worked around the clock and converted all of the student records, registration, and course curriculum to semesters in preparation for the upcoming advising and registration.

And you thought it was just about basketball...**Miriam Vivian** was quoted extensively on the connection between Bakersfield and Oklahoma on the front page article in the Oklahoman Friday March 18, 2016 for the CSUB basketball team's game against Oklahoma in the NCAA championship tournament. <http://newsok.com/article/5485832>

I served as a panelist at the opening presidential plenary at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. The topic was "Thriving in a Time of Disruption in Higher Education."

The Latina Youth Conference was hosted on campus again this year. I was pleased to welcome them and give them encouragement to follow their educational dreams.

Isabel Sumaya, Psychology received the exciting news that the \$2.5 million NIH MARC U STAR Grant: Preparing Students for a Future in Biomedical Research, has been funded!

Jacqueline Mimms reports that CSUB is partnering with SFSU and other campuses on a \$500,000 Prison Initiative Grant “Project Rebound” to increase the number of justice-involved students who persist to a four-year degree.

In **Psychology Isabel Sumaya, Dee Bailey and Susan Catlett’s** article “Differential effects of a short-term high-fat diet in an animal model of depression in rats treated with the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist, ondansetron, the 5-HT₃ receptor agonist, 2-methyl-5-HT, and the SSRI, fluoxetine” was published in Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Behavior.

Felicia Rodriquez, History Department, was invited to participate in the NEH Summer Institute on “Westward Expansion and the Constitution in the Early Republic,” to be held in Norman, Oklahoma, this June.

A White House invitation: Alumnus **Megan Mawson (BA English, 2007)** of The East High School Health Careers Academy was invited to the White House to attend an event that supported the First Lady’s “Beating the Odds” Initiative. The Health Careers Academy, as part of the California Partnership Academies, in addition to five other schools from around the country, was chosen to speak on behalf of programs with long track records of helping at-risk, impoverished students succeed despite the hardships they face on a daily basis. Megan, a Health Careers teacher, elaborated on the structure and operation of the academy, offered firsthand accounts of what students’ lives were like before, during, and after participating in the program, and presented feedback on how governmental agencies could improve policy to help such programs flourish.

Christopher Meyers, Philosophy, and The **Kegley Institute** brought Tracy Martin, father of Treyvon Martin to campus to talk about his vision of positive change. It was an emotional and powerful evening with more than 2,000 campus and community members in attendance.

The President’s Speaker Series brought David Cote, CEO of Honeywell to campus for a discussion with students in class and a presentation to the campus and community. It was a lively discussion of visionary leadership and perseverance to reach goals.

Geology students Nick Mitchell, Richard McGuire, Charlie Gomes and Christopher Cook placed third in the IBA competition. **Jan Gillespie, Geology** along with her outside consultant local geophysicist Don Greenfield are advisors for the team. IBA is the Imperial Barrel Award, a competition put on each year by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Teams receive a real world subsurface dataset consisting of seismic and well data from somewhere in the world (we had offshore New Zealand). The students have 8 weeks to learn about the geology and petroleum systems of the area and then develop and defend a series of drillable oil/gas prospects to a team of judges. We competed in the Pacific Coast Division which included Portland State, CSU Northridge, CSU Long Beach, San Diego State, UC Santa Barbara and the Univ. of Alaska. Local oil companies are very attuned to the results of the competition and tend to look favorably on students who participate when it comes to hiring. It has been good to have them see that CSUB can be a contender even against much larger schools like UCSB.

I was able to attend the showcase of the RIAP program of our faculty and our high school, BC, and Taft colleagues. I was impressed with the thoughtful and innovative material they have created for their classes and the visions that have for their schools. This is a cross-curricular program for high school, community college, and university faculty; we have 64 participants this year. **Kim Flachmann, English** is our campus lead.

At the Alpha Chi convention, **Nursing student, Robyn Musick**, was elected student rep. to the National Council from Region VII and **Jackie Kegley, Philosophy** was elected Vice President of Region VII.

We hosted the 2016 Chevron Engineering Design Challenge (CDC) Bakersfield Regionals. Local high school students enrolled in the Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Pathways to Engineering Program put their design skills to the test by responding to real-life scenarios and designing products at the annual CDC.

Professor of Economics, Abbas P. Grammy, recently published the Economic and Fiscal Impact report for CSUB. The report quantified the economic enhancement the university makes to the local economy in the form of community engagement, earnings increments, and productivity improvement by measuring the impacts of spending by the university, students, alumni, visitors, and active and retired employees.

Dr. Grammy was also commissioned by the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California to provide an economic and fiscal impact analysis of hospitals operating in Kern County. The analysis included ten hospitals operating in Kern County and highlights their impact to our communities and emphasizes the necessity to invest in and protect our regional health care safety-net.

The Kern Economic Summit is an annual event that provides a forum for economists and business leaders to discuss international, national, regional, and local economies. **Economics Department** faculty members **Dr. Mark Evans, Dr. Richard Gearhart, and Dr. Nyakundi Michieka** were guest speakers. Dr. Michieka discussed the relationship between oil prices and local unemployment rates, Dr. Gearhart discussed local trends related to the health care industry, and Dr. Evans discussed local economic policy.

The office of **Grant, Research and Sponsored Programs** held a Student Poster Competition on Friday, April 8, 2016 as part of the activities for the Research Excellence Day at CSUB. Please join us to congratulate the students in the attachment for winning the Poster competition in their respective categories.

CSUB - Student Research Poster Competition Winners 2016

Physical and Mathematical Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – David-Allen Alvarez (*Geology*)

2nd Place – Tony Gallagher (*Geology*)

3rd Place – Luz Perez (*Biochemistry*)

[Graduates]

1st Place – Jordan Martin (*Geology*)

2nd Place – Nick Moreno (*Geology*)

3rd Place – Eric Heaton (*Geology*)



Biological and Agricultural Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Joren Salazar (*Biochemistry*)

2nd Place – Rachel Oldfield (*Chemistry*)

3rd Place – Anthony Cruz (*Biology*)

[Graduates]

1st Place – David Salisbury (*Biology*)

2nd Place – [Tie] Calvin Bron Susbilla (*Biology*)
Prabjeet Kaur (*Biology*)

Engineering and Computer Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Sheriff Sadiqbatcha (*Computer Engineering*)

2nd Place – [Group Presentation]

Jenna Bunag (*Engineering Sciences*)

Gilbert Esparza (*Engineering Sciences*)

Sergio Pinedo (*Engineering Sciences*)

Catalina Rivera (*Engineering Sciences*)

3rd Place – Kody Bryan (*Computer Engineering*)

Behavioral and Social Sciences

[Undergraduates]

1st Place – Steve Teteak (*Anthropology*)

2nd Place – Samirah Hussain (*Psychology*)

3rd Place – Andrew Suter (*Psychology & Biology*)

The Research Excellence Day was a fabulous example of the dynamic research that are faculty conduct. I thoroughly enjoyed the presentations and the posters by faculty and students.

Robert M. Yohe II, Anthropology has published an article in California Archaeology “Recently Discovered Clovis Points in Indian Wells Valley on the Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, Southeastern Alta California.”

Hawk Honors student, **Omar Samara** won Second Place in the STEM Poster session at the Western Regional Honors Conference at UC, Riverside for his poster “Development of Autonomous Unmanned Ariel Vehicle for Pesticide Application in Agriculture.”

And that doesn't even cover the first half of April! More to come....

Proud to be a Runner,

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: May 12, 2016

Colleagues:

We are fully into the final celebrations and events of the academic year. It is a celebratory time of the year when we recognize faculty, staff, and students for their hard work and exemplary service.

First, let me correct my typo on Alicia's name from the previous Academics is Soaring announcement.

-Alicia Rodriquez, History Department, was invited to participate in the NEH Summer Institute on “Westward Expansion and the Constitution in the Early Republic,” to be held in Norman, Oklahoma, this June.

-Last night I attended an inspiring event hosted by the **Wonderful Company** in Visalia. It is a scholarship program for their employees, many of whom work 7 days per week in the fields from sun up to sun down. Children of the employees were awarded up to \$6,000 each in scholarships to attend a community college or 4 year institution. Hundreds of scholarships were awarded last night, as in previous years. The students have high retention rates of 86% because of the supports that begin in pre-school through high school. They support the students here at CSUB, the most popular destination (OF COURSE!), with an onsite tutor. I witnessed one man thank the President of the Citrus Division for the scholarship for his child. With emotion and pride he lifted his hand with all five fingers extended, saying “Number Five. Number Five. This is my fifth child to receive a scholarship. Many of these students would never have the opportunity for a college education without this support of the Wonderful Company. They are dedicated to transforming the lives of the people in the valley through education. This is our mission, and I am grateful to be able to work with all of you as we carryout this mission.

-The **CSUB Research Excellence Awards** honored faculty and staff for their Sponsored Programs granted activity. More than fifty faculty and staff were recognized in the Millionaire Club, Gold Awards, Silver Awards, and Bronze Awards. It was an impressive array of research projects, many of which included students in the research.

-When I spoke to the **student athletes** at their opening all-sport meeting I challenged them to push their overall GPA over 3.0. They have risen to that challenge and continue to push higher. The CSUB students athletes earned the highest ever cumulative GPA of 3.06 at the conclusion of the winter term. The women's soccer team earned the highest women's team GPA with a 3.39 GPA. The wrestling team earned the highest men's team GPA with a 3.02 GPA. Women's soccer boasts the highest team cumulative GPA of 3.42 with 24 student athletes carrying a 3.0 or above cumulative GPA. Seventy percent of all CSUB teams claim a 3.0 or above cumulative GPA. 120 student athletes earned recognition on the dean's list and 162 student athletes boast a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.

-Distinguished CSUB **BPA alumnus** and CSUB Hall of Fame Inductee, **Kevin McCarthy**, who also represents local District 23 as a U.S. congressman and House Majority Leader returned to the classroom to speak with MBA students in Dr. **Mohsen Attaran's** class at the **School of Business and Public Administration (BPA)**. He shared insights and strategies that have carried him successfully through the years as a business owner and politician:

- Timing. Everything you do comes down to timing and knowing when to hold back and when to jump is an important part of success.
- Do something you think you can't do, because that is when you will do your best.
- Be entrepreneurial: You don't have to think of something that has never been created, think of how you can make it better.
- Don't be afraid to fail. You will learn more from failure than you ever will from any success.

-Congratulations to **Kate Mulry, History Department**, who was awarded a month long fellowship this summer at the Winterthur Museum and Library. It houses one of the most important collections of Americana in the United States of America.

-And yet another for **Kate Mulry, History Department**. She was awarded a fellowship to work in the Council of the American Antiquarian Society for her project "Unwholesome Tinctures: Inoculation and Questions of Heredity in the Early Eighteenth Century Anglo Atlantic."

-**Sandra Bozarth, Librarian** is coordinating the CSUB COOL4Ed web site. Faculty eportfolios are now available on the COOL4Ed web site. When you click on the faculty showcase link you can scroll through and find your eportfolio or search by area. Our own **Abbas Grammy, Economics**, is listed first. Thank you for your participation in selecting an open source textbook. You all are making great efforts to help to make textbooks more affordable for our students and addressing the issue of the rising costs of textbooks.

<http://cool4ed.org/facultyshowcase.html>

-**Sandra Bozarth, Librarian** is also directing the Affordable Solutions Initiative at CSUB. We received \$20,000 from the Chancellor's Office for the Affordable Learning Solutions (ALS) Initiative which will support faculty in their adoption of affordable course materials.

-**Heidi He, Nursing** was selected RN of the Year by the Association of Kern County Nurse Leaders (AKCNL)! The award was announced at the 9th Annual Night to Honor Our Nurses event, which recognizes the dedicated men and women of the nursing profession. Thirty-seven nurses were nominated under 6 different categories of nursing excellence. Heidi was named RN of the Year in the area of Advanced Practice for her clinical excellence as a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) and her outstanding contributions to the nursing profession. She is recognized in our healthcare community as a knowledgeable, compassionate clinician, and has provided high-

quality care to Kern County residents for nearly 20 years. Heidi is in the final semester of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program at Fresno State and is completing an innovative Chronic Care Management Toolkit to improve patient outcomes. Under Heidi's leadership, the MSN/FNP Program at CSUB has been successfully reestablished and accredited, providing an opportunity for local nurses pursue their goal to become FNPs.

-Under the direction of **Sarah E. Appleton, Psychology**, the SATP grant from SAMHSA has made an impact in the community in its first six months of operation. One amazing impact our program has had is that one of our local group homes revised their policies to screen every adolescent for substance use disorders which will allow the kids to be referred to appropriate treatment when needed. They said our training gave them the knowledge and skills to put that into practice! We are looking forward to upcoming regional trainings in June and September and hope to train about 120 additional local professionals. Great job!

-**Mustafah Dhada, History Department** organized a session for the American Historical Society "Mass Violence and The End of the Portuguese Empire: Mueda and Wiri Yamu Examined," and will be a presidential session.

-The **Department of Geology** now awards more geology degrees than any other CSU! The number of CSUB geology majors has skyrocketed over the last 10 years or so. We are now also seeing that these students are successful and are completing their degrees in record numbers. In 14/15 CSUB awarded over 10% of all geology degrees in the CSU. This success is related to major funding from the National Science Foundation and Chevron for outreach, recruiting, and student success initiatives. It is rewarding to see how all the hard work of the faculty and the support from Chevron are making an impact. In the case of Chevron, it really shows how their long-standing support of initiatives developed by the faculty makes a difference.

-**Jackie Kegley, Honors Director** confirmed that we are scheduled to host the CSU Honors Conference in April, 2017. This will be a great way to showcase our campus and its excellence in scholarship.

-The **English Department and the Walter Stiern Library** hosted a poetry reading "Writing the Drought." The readings were a collection of poems by Kern County Authors.

-**Mahdy Elhusseiny, Accounting and Finance Department**, is the advisor to the Financial Management Association student club. The club hosted the 2nd Annual Foreign Trade Obligations and Implications event with guest speakers with extensive expertise in Foreign Trade. It was an evening filled with excellent insights and the students posed probing questions. It was evident to me that our students are well prepared in foreign trade concepts and the intricate nature of financial management.

-**Celebrate CSUB** was a delightful day that showcased so many of our students, programs, and educational opportunities. Mostly I enjoyed watching the little children engaged in activities such as trying their hands at pottery, intrigued by real brains of animals including a human brain, and poetry writing. The talent competition was a tough one to judge because of the high level of the performers!

-The last **two Brown Bag** discussions have been panels on Sexual Assault in 1970's Bakersfield: A Story of Women Helping Women and Mental Health. Each were powerful discussions of important issues for our times. I was deeply moved by each panel who have given their lives to these issues.

-I was honored to be inducted along with the students into the **Alpha Chi National Honor Society**. While I could not attend, Dr. Kegley graciously pinned me at a later date. I am pleased to see we have a meaningful ceremony for the student inductees and that we provide this opportunity for them.

-The **Department of Public Policy Administration** hosted their **Pi Alpha Alpha** Induction Ceremony and I was fortunate to have a front row seat to snap photos of some of our staff who were inducted. That was a fun evening celebrating their commitments to noble professions.

-This week I enjoyed the **Years of Service Staff Awards** where we celebrate staff with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service. I liked the look of the 40 year award, but I think it's outside the realm of possibility for me!

-The very fancy **Student Leaders Awards** night transformed the Student Union Multi-Purpose room into an unrecognizably elegant setting. The student leaders, faculty advisors, and staff mentors received awards for their work as servant leaders. I was proud to be in the room with such great promise for our future. Our country needs these wise and classy leaders!

-**The Runner** hosted an open house for their new digs in Modular III. **Advisor Jennifer Burger** has established a strong program for our journalistic students. I wish I had that kind of space when I wrote for the student newspaper in college. Students these days have it so much better than we did;) And that's what we are striving for with our students....better and better experiences and opportunities.

-Thanks to the organizers of the **CSU Research Competition** which netted some awards for some of our students and was lauded as one the best organized and smoothly run competitions in memory.

-And, of course the visits by **Chancellor Tim White and Board of Trustees Faculty member Steven Stepanek** provided opportunities for us to engage with our leaders. Each spoke of how meaningful their days with us were, how they were impressed by the innovative teaching of our faculty, how lively and brilliant our students were with them, and how obvious it is that the staff are committed to our mission.

Proud to be a Runner,

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: June 2, 2016

Colleagues:

We are in the home stretch! It has been an event-filled few weeks and it isn't slowing down yet!

Tonight the School of Arts and Humanities honored students in the Dezember Room with a variety of Project, Paper, Thesis, and Department Awards and Outstanding Graduate Awards. Faculty and staff were visibly proud

of their students and their success. CSUB Alumna Jacqui Kitchen, the 2016 Alumni Rising Runner for A&H inspired the room with her meaningful Honors Address.

Last night was the raucous and celebratory “The Rowdy’s Late Night” Starring CSUB Athletics in the Fox Theatre downtown. A variety of awards were presented including academic awards for the Golden Circle and Best Academic Performance. Overall student athletes have earned a record high 3.06 GPA.

Also last night we celebrated the credential students as more than 300 new teachers received their final credentials for teaching in our K-12 community. Bakersfield is a better place because of these new teachers who have been guided and educated by our outstanding faculty! The room was full of excitement and anticipation of future impact for the next generation.

The student Art Show was an eclectic collection of creativity and energy! I always enjoy seeing the students’ creations and this show did not disappoint.

I enjoyed the show! La Gringa was another entertaining performance by the Theatre Department. The story of a Puerto Rican from New York who is trying to find her identity. It will be entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Great job, again!

The Honors Recognition for the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering was an impressive array of student research and academic excellence. I was pleased to see the family and faculty supporting their students with deep pride.

At Commencement look for the red, white, and blue cords that our veterans will wear and thank them for their service and congratulate them on their accomplishment! They received their cords at the Veterans Recognition Program. We heard from several as they thanked their supporters who helped them continue moving forward to their degrees. Many faculty and staff gave extra attention to these students as they transitioned back into civilian life. It is always moving to hear the sorts of assistance they needed and appreciated from us.

I enjoyed the breakfast Initiation for the International Honor Society for Economics, Omicron Delta Epsilon. The Economics faculty are so supportive of their students and happy to recognize them for their academic success.

I was honored to attend the Initiation for Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society for Business. Once again it was clear to see the impact our faculty have on these students. The students appreciated their mentors and the roles they have played in their academic careers at CSUB.

The Eighth Annual Gender Matters Symposium was once again hosted by Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and ClubGEN (Gender Equality Now!). We heard research presentations by our students and a keynote presentation “Glitter. Power. Love: A (Re)Introduction to Gender” by national GenderQueer Advocate Jacob Tobia. I found the talk to be academic, fact-based and an honest and open discussion of gender and a personal journey. Jacob certainly resonated with the students.

The 20th Annual Psi Chi Research Conference provided opportunities for faculty/student collaborative research projects to be presented. The projects were in various stages of development and the conference provided a comfortable environment for the students to receive input and feedback as they develop their research agendas. I

was able to attend a presentation on “Thug” a Code Word for a Racial Epithet? that was a socially relevant research project for our current understandings of race.

I spent a couple of hours listening to faculty presentations in the Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum program. Each of the faculty in the program gave brief presentations on the innovative teaching project they introduced in their courses. This is a genuine learning community where the faculty learned from each other in critiquing what worked and what didn't, adapting techniques from others, and creating different learning environments. It was intriguing to see how divergent disciplines were able to adopt similar techniques.

Alicia Rodriquez, History Department, has been accepted to a second summer institute, this one at the Institute for Constitutional Studies/Stanford University Constitutional Law Center: “The Reconstruction Amendments: Freedom, Equality, and The American Constitution.” Congratulations Alicia!

For five weeks we hosted a visiting sculptor from Japan Sachiko Miki. She worked diligently to create an amazing sculpture for our campus that deals with Water and the Body. This amazing sculpture is placed near Dr. Thomas Wallace's office. It is an intriguing sculpture that will catch your imagination. I encourage you to stop by and experience it.

We toasted the newly retired and emeritus faculty and invited them to join with the rejuvenated retired faculty association. The history in that room filled the air with stories and a collective wisdom of years upon years of academic advancement here at CSUB. Thousands of students have been inspired, guided, and challenged by these faculty over the decades. We will miss long-time friends and colleagues and hope they continue to stay engaged with us.

I enjoyed some honest discussions with the Faculty Fellows in the TLC program as we discussed professional issues and career paths.

We have launched several affinity groups as we work to build community here at CSUB: Black Faculty and Staff Association, Latino/a Affinity Group, Asian Affinity Group, Women Leaders at CSUB, and international faculty are working on establishing a Phi Beta Delta International Scholars Society at CSUB.

As a part of the 2015 Affordable Learning Solutions (AL\$) grant, the CSUB AL\$ team organized a luncheon to recognize faculty who have participated in the CSUB Affordable Learning Solutions Initiative, along with faculty who have been certified via Quality Matters and faculty doing course redesign. **Librarian Sandra Bozarth** serves as the Lead for the AL\$ grant.

I attended my first Roadrunner Society Induction Ceremony. This is a fantastic way to celebrate the academic success of students as they balance numerous demands on their time while maintaining high gpas!

I also attended my first staff recognition ceremony where we recognize years of service to the university. I am always amazed at these events when I see how many people are so dedicated to the university and love working here! It's great to be a Runner!

I learned about the internship program established by Dr. Wallace with President Mitchell when I joined the celebration of the Graduate Student Leader Cohort. This program develops leadership in our graduate students and provides opportunities for some of our operations to benefit from their work on projects.

About a dozen students have been selected to attend the national HACU (Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities) conference in October. We held an orientation meeting with the students and are preparing them to gain the most from this opportunity.

So many more celebrations to attend in the coming days! I'm looking forward to them all!

Proud to be a Runner,

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Academics is Soaring: June 12, 2016

Colleagues:

We graduated our highest number of students during our commencement ceremonies with more than 2,500 students receiving degrees. Well, provided they pass their exams!

Last night I attended the Nursing Pinning Ceremony and it was a meaningful celebration with each of California's new nurses taking The Florence Nightingale Pledge by candlelight.

We celebrated cultural ceremonies of the Black Recognition Ceremony and the Chicano/a Celebration in the week leading up to the commencements.

The Antelope Valley Center celebrated its outstanding students and alumnus at a beautiful celebration last weekend. I declare it to have had won the best balloon display of all of the celebrations!

The last of the four School Honors and Awards Receptions was for the School of Social Sciences and Education. The many accomplishments of the students were an impressive array that exemplified the mentorship of the faculty.

On June 3 we celebrated the Groundbreaking for the Arts and Humanities office building and the classroom building. This summer you will start to see the digging begin and over the coming year the buildings will materialize.

During the January-March 2016 quarter on behalf of 9 faculty/staff GRASP processed and submitted 10 proposals requesting a total of \$5.2M from three federal agencies, one CSU organization, one professional association, and one state agency.

Graduate students Kenneth Lekim, Cheritha Hewakandamby, and Sarai Espinoza from the **Master of Science, Health Care Administration (MS-HCA) program**, who work with California Children's Services (CCS) as Student Research Assistants, presented their initial findings for their current research at the CCS Annual Conference on May 7, 2016. The goal of the research is to assess the readiness of CCS patients transitioning to adulthood with the final goal of being to self-manage and self-advocate for their medical needs. To date, only a small fraction of their target participation has been assessed, but their initial findings show a need to increase and improve educational transitioning services.

Congratulations to **Dr. Richard Gearhart, Economics Department**, who received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) Chapter at their annual induction ceremony on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. NSLS members were asked to nominate a professor who teaches with heart and passion and has motivated them in their pursuit of higher education.

Dr. Di Wu, Department of Accounting and Finance, was awarded Certified Management Accountant (CMA) by Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) in May of 2016. CMA's assess competency of internally focused accounting skills and is appropriate for professionals working in large, small, publicly traded and privately held enterprises, not-for-profit organizations, academia, and government. More than 37,000 professionals in the U.S. and around the world have earned the CMA since the program was introduced in 1972.

The 2015-16 academic year is nearly in the books as faculty finalize grading this week. I was pleased to see the joyful faces of all of the faculty, staff, and administrators as we congratulated our students on their graduation day. Thanks to all of you for making their CSUB academic careers possible!

Proud to be a Runner,

Jenny

Jenny Zorn, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs