

# your CSUB

CSU Bakersfield News Magazine • Fall 2013

## CSUB *Welcomes New Dean:* Dr. Anne Houtman



"She is an excellent scholar and leader who brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our University"  
- Dr. Horace Mitchell



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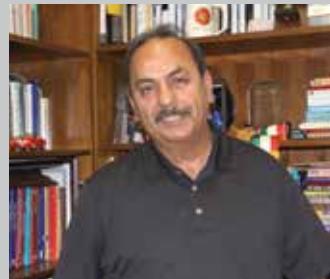
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# Your CSUB

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Editor / Creative Director  
**Colleen Dillaway**  
(661) 654-2456  
cdillaway@csub.edu

Writers / Photography  
**Irma Cervantes**  
(661) 654-2138  
icervantes@csub.edu  
**Colleen Dillaway**  
**Stephannie Heerdink**  
Public Affairs intern

Graphic Design  
**Micki Reichle**

CSU BAKERSFIELD  
**Dr. Horace Mitchell**  
President

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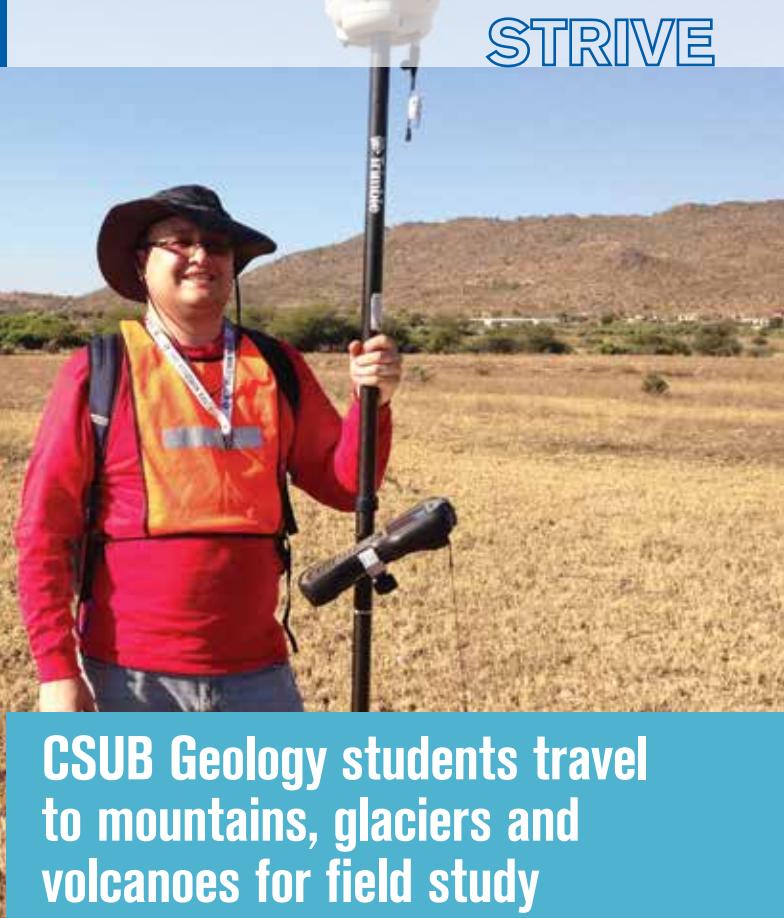
Direct comments and inquiries to:  
Office of Public Affairs  
and Communications  
CSU Bakersfield  
9001 Stockdale Highway, 19AW  
Bakersfield, CA 93311-1022

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[www.csub.edu/yourcsub](http://www.csub.edu/yourcsub)

To change your name or mailing address:  
(661) 654-2136  
(800) 788-CSUB (2782)

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**ON THE COVER:**  
Dr. Anne Houtman Dean of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering



## CSUB Geology students travel to mountains, glaciers and volcanoes for field study

PHOTO COURTESY : Azael Salinas

CSUB Geology major Azael Salinas during one of his field study excursions in Johannesburg, South Africa.

While many students spent their summer resting at home, hitting the beach, or visiting with friends and family, eleven CSUB geology students traveled nationally and internationally to conduct field mapping for class research.

"Field-based study and research experiences are valuable to Geologists at any stage in their career," said Dr. Chris Krugh, CSUB Assistant Professor of Geology. "It provides an unrivaled way to observe geologic features as well as allow for direct investigation to the processes responsible for their formation."

Two geology students, Azael Salinas and Philip Herrera, traveled to Johannesburg, Africa, to be part of the Africa Array Project.

"It was a life changing experience. One that was exciting not only ecologically, but culturally as well," said Salinas. "We were able to work with students from different parts of the world, working together geologically, while learning about our cultural differences."

The students that traveled to Africa were part of a larger group of students at Penn State University that conducted research for six weeks. A small select group joined twenty other students from around Africa to conduct fieldwork in Johannesburg as part of the University of Witwaterstrand summer research program. The students researched material deposits using nonintrusive methods to the earth, which is very cost effective and involves no drilling, to determine how far the platinum baring layer is between the surface and the sub surface of the earth.

"It surprised me how reliable and accurate the images we captured were," said Salinas. "It opened my eyes to the fact that there are multiple ways to solidify findings when it comes to geology. Using that research motivates me to possibly be involved in other research projects that involve geophysics."

**"It was a life changing experience. One that was exciting not only ecologically, but culturally as well."**

Other trips abroad for field study included a trip to Turkey, where six see **GEOLOGY** page 4

# Four CSUB students awarded 2013 John Brock Endowment

Four outstanding California State University Bakersfield students in the school of Business and Public Administration are the recipients of the 2013 John Brock Endowment scholarships. The students were presented with an award of \$2,500 each during the annual John Brock Community Service Awards Dinner held on September 5, 2013 at Seven Oaks Country Club. The event will also honored Ben Stinson, III, President of Stinson Stationers, as the 2013 recipient of this year's award.

**"Their future success in private and public sectors will be of great importance to Bakersfield and Kern County."**

This year's John Brock Endowment Scholarship recipients are:

- **Ricky M. Esparza** – Esparza is a CSUB senior working towards his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. He is a member of the CSUB Hawk Honors Program; Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Society for Collegiate Schools of Business; and president of the CSUB ENACTUS Chapter. Esparza plans to earn his Master's Degree in Business, and hopes to become a marketing manager in the technology or entertainment industry.
- **Janet Espinoza** – Espinoza is a CSUB senior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She is a member of the University Accounting Association and has interned at a local CPA firm. Espinoza transferred to CSUB from Bakersfield College, where she earned an Associate of Arts Degrees in Business Administration and Economics. Espinoza plans on pursuing her CPA license and hopes to work for a local CPA firm.
- **Paisley Stidham** – Stidham is a senior at CSUB this fall where she will be majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. She has already taken over the position of Vice President of the student chapter of the Society of Human Resource Managers at CSUB. She transferred to CSUB from Bakersfield College, where she graduated with an Associate of Arts Degree



2013 John Brock Scholarship recipients Derek Stotler, Paisley Stidham, Janet Espinoza, and Ricky M. Esparza stand proud with Dr. John Emery, Dean of the CSUB School of Business and Public Administration, during the awards dinner held at Seven Oaks Country Club in September.

in Business Administration. Stidham plans to pursue a Master's Degree and be a Professor of Business at CSUB.

- **Derek Stotler** – Stotler is a CSUB junior double majoring in Business and Economics. He is a first-generation college student who is motivated and loves to interact with students on campus and volunteer in the community. He is the President of the "Sensational Sophomores," an academic honors program that focuses on student and community outreach. He serves as the Executive Vice President of the student body during the 2013-2014 academic school year.

"These students have demonstrated not only academic achievement, but also leadership and the community service for which the John Brock Endowment was established to embody," said Dr. John Emery, Dean of the CSUB School of Business and Public Administration. "Their future success in private and public sectors will be of great importance to Bakersfield and Kern County."

## GEOLOGY continued from page 3

students compared the San Andreas and North Anatolian fault systems. One graduate student traveled to Iceland, where he examined the active volcanism and sea-floor spreading along the Mid-Atlantic ridge. Within the United States, students traveled to South Dakota Montana, Wyoming Idaho, and Utah where they investigated active and ancient processes of mountain building, erosion, and deposition in the Black Hills, Rocky Mountains, and Basin and Range.

The trips were funded through grants, scholarships, and student's own out-of-pocket expense. The students had to apply for these programs and be accepted in order to attend. Most of these summer field study programs will stop taking applications by December, and acceptance if very competitive. Those interested in participating next summer are encouraged to apply soon through the CSUB Department of Geological Sciences.

# CSUB MBA students take San Antonio

Fourteen California State University, Bakersfield Master of Business Administration students recently had the opportunity to network with fellow MBA students from across the United States, rub elbows with some of the nation's top business professionals, and even be interviewed on the spot for possible careers in some of the largest companies in the country. This was made available to them at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual National Society of Hispanic MBAs (NSHMBAs) Conference in San Antonio, Texas this past October.

"The job opportunities were incredible," said Melissa Delgado, CSUB MBA student. "Some of the largest companies in the nation were there and they were looking for MBA's. Interviews were being held right there in the same convention center and numerous students from CSUB came out with job offers."

The students were afforded the opportunity to attend the conference through stipends from the CSUB School of Business and Public Administration that helped cover over 90% of the cost of attending. Current MBA students were asked to submit an application and Resumé, as well as answer a questionnaire about why they would like to attend the conference.

"Our BPA Dean John Emery provided the funding for our students to attend the NSHMBAs conference," said Dr. Jean West, CSUB MBA

Program Director. "He believes that this event is one of the best networking opportunities for our MBAs."

West, who also attended the conference, agrees, and says that she was able to see first hand how CSUB's MBA students were able to connect with major corporations across

students to have an opportunity to obtain jobs in Fortune 500 companies," said Nancy Solis, NSHMBAs Bakersfield Chapter Board member and CSUB Alumna. "Additionally, students had the opportunity to enhance their career and professional opportunities, have their resumes critiqued, and participate in mock interviews."

PHOTO COURTESY : Nancy Solis



Some of the CSUB MBA students and Alumni who traveled to the conference are Luis Thompson, Nancy Solis, Ana Paola De Soto, Maribel Ramirez, Alex Anfoso, Michael Gomez and Sergio Casillas.

the country. The NSHMBAs Conference is the largest Hispanic Business Expo in the nation. Recruiters from top employers attended to recruit MBAs. Attendees enjoyed access to professional development sessions, numerous networking opportunities, and various keynote speakers. Among those in attendance were: Michael Dell, CEO and Founder of DELL; Reid Bigland, President and CEO of Chrysler Canada Inc.; and Counselor Kickbusch, the highest ranking Hispanic woman in the Combat Support Field of the US Army.

"Attendance to the 2013 Conference allowed the

But one of the most important things that these students will take away from this conference is the relationships they developed with each other.

"It was an amazing experience because I got to know my classmates on a much more intimate level," said Delgado. "We were all there supporting each other and offering words of encouragement before interviews. It was wonderful to have that kind of support network and many of us have become much closer friends since then. Getting to know other people is a critical

see NSHMBAs page 8

"These insights are crucial to the development of a Geologist and can be applied to our investigations of other geologic settings," said Krugh. "These exciting opportunities are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to studying geology."

PHOTO COURTESY :CSUB Geology Department



CSUB Geology majors Esteban Macias, Allison Burich, Monica Sanchez, Lindsey Medina, Martin Jimenez, and Cristina Rivas in Turkey.

# CSUB Communications students travel to national conference in Philly to develop Public Relations Skills

Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love, was flooded with thousands of public relations students from all over the United States for the 2013 Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) National Conference. CSUB communications seniors and PRSSA executive board members Stephannie Heerdink,

students with a wide-range of information on the field. From keynote addresses delivered by Mary Henige, Director, Social Media, Digital Communications and Reputation Management of General Motors Company to hearing from some living legends of public relations, students were exposed to examples of communications

strategies and issues of importance. Following the keynote, students were encouraged to attend the many break-out sessions that accompanied their public relations interests. Reyes shared that her favorite session was Spice Up Your Presentation Skills. "This session gave me an understanding that presentations aren't just about talking, they are about selling your subject while you have the audiences attention."

and networking experience for the students who attended. However, the sharing of information doesn't stop there. Mullican, CSUB PRSSA President explained, "Sharing the core values from the conference with chapter members is crucial to advancing the profession."

Public relations can take many different fields; entertainment, healthcare, non-profit and public affairs to name a few, and Reyes advised students to pick the best fit for them. "Public relations can take you in many fields but you have to pick the one that is right for you and remain dedicated to your job."

When not attending sessions, Heerdink, Reyes and Mullican spent time exploring the city. Not only did this trip afford them the opportunity to gain information about public relations, but they also were able to experience one of the oldest and most historic cities in the nation. They visited the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, Benjamin Franklin's grave and the Betsy Ross house to experience our nations history. They also saw the LOVE statue, ran the "Rocky" steps, and ate the ever-so famous Philly cheese steak.

Ilse Reyes and Kassie Mullican, represented the PRSSA CSUB chapter at the five-day "Foundation for Innovation" themed conference.

The PRSSA National Conference serves to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the public relations industry from current public relations professionals and to teach students how to succeed within this innovative industry. The conference did just that for Mullican, "I gained valuable knowledge that is going to help me as a professional."

The conference programming was very diverse and provided

PRSSA is a student organization modeled after the professional organization, Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). Fortunately, this year, the PRSA National Conference and the PRSSA National Conference were within walking distance to one another. More importantly, students were invited to attend sessions at the PRSA conference, allowing them an opportunity to network with current public relations professionals from all over the nation.

Spending five days learning about the public relations industry was a great learning



PHOTO COURTESY: Stephannie Heerdink



# Thomas Martinez: Teacher, Leader, Fundraiser, Facilitator

When he first arrived at CSU Bakersfield, all Thomas Martinez wanted to do was use the library for his Ph.D. studies. After witnessing his work and determination while engrossed in his studies night after night, some CSUB faculty and administration saw the potential in him. After successful interviews and assessments, he was invited to stay on campus and teach. Now Martinez is entering his 29th year as a member of the faculty at CSUB.

Martinez was born and raised in East Bakersfield and is a graduate of Bakersfield High School. When he first started teaching Public Policy and Administration at CSUB in 1985, he was one of only two or three local faculty members on campus. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master's Degree in Mexican American Graduate Studies from San Jose State University. Soon after, he moved back home to Bakersfield and commuted to the University of Southern California, where he received his Ph.D. in Public Administration in 1987.

In his years at CSUB, he has taught many successful local officials, including Bakersfield Police Chiefs Greg Williamson and Erick Matlock, Bakersfield Fire Chief Doug Greener, and Kern County Administrative Officer John Nilon.

"I sometimes joke around with

my colleagues and say, look at where my students are now, and I'm still here," said Martinez.

Aside from teaching both undergraduate and graduate classes, Martinez is very well known around campus and in the community for his involvement with the CSUB Hispanic Excellence Scholarship fund (HESF), a CSUB initiative established in 1984 of which he has been the coordinator since 1996. The HESF was established in 1984 by CSU President Emeritus Dr. Tomás A. Arciniega (CSUB President 1983-2004), to increase access to a college education for academically excellent financially deserving underrepresented students who demonstrate leadership potential. From 1996 to 2004, Martinez left the classroom to serve as Assistant to then President Arciniega, devoting his time to HESF and other projects of the president's office. Thanks to extensive community support, HESF has been able to award over \$2.8 million in scholarships since its inception. Just this past September, 60 students were awarded scholarships totaling over \$150,000.

"The minimum grade point average acceptable to apply for this scholarship is 3.0, yet the average G.P.A. we saw this past see MARTINEZ page 11

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# Despite hard times and struggles, determination earned a “bright” student a large award

Aaron Sproul is not a typical college student. As a 32-year-old CSUB undergraduate student, Sproul has overcome many hardships during his higher education career that would be difficult for even the brightest of students. He has faced many struggles while pursuing his educational dreams but has never stopped working towards higher education. The thought of giving up never crossed his mind. Sproul's persistence and outstanding academic record are what secured his selection as a recipient of the PG&E Bright Minds Scholarship.

Sproul graduated with honors from Bakersfield College in the fall of 2011 with an Associate in Science Degree in Engineering and an Associate in Arts Degree in Mathematics. Like many recent graduates, Sproul started his search for a job. But with the demanding and ever-competitive technical market, and an unsuccessful job search, he decided to go back to school while waiting for possible interviews. In the fall of 2012, Sproul became a CSUB Roadrunner. He is currently studying to earn his degree in mathematics in the applied branch, a very natural extension to the engineering field.

Before BC and CSUB Sproul had other plans. He planned on going to CSU Northridge to work on a Bachelors of Science in Electrical Engineering. Unfortunately, in 2009 his family suffered a devastating heartbreak. Sproul's father had

a stroke, which destroyed his short-term memory, permanently disabling him and preventing him from working. With only his disabled father's encouragement and the desire to receive higher education, Sproul started his



journey towards his Bachelors degree at BC. That same motivation to continue his studies despite suffering a crisis is mirrored in his studies and evident by his exceptional academic record.

Sproul was selected as 1 of 10 students to receive a full-ride, renewable scholarship of up to \$30,000 per year. "Sproul is not only outstanding academically, but he demonstrates a personal resiliency and tenacity," shared Kristen Doud, PG&E Community Relations Representative. "It's taken him longer than the average student to earn his degree but he never gave up on that goal."

Sproul was surprised and grateful to learn he was selected. "This scholarship will greatly help with meeting my

higher cost of attendance." The scholarship will go to fund items such as an aging car that endures a 25-minute one-way commute to campus, higher health insurance, and the burden of living independently since the age of 17.

The PG&E Bright Minds scholarship program was founded in 2012 and offers up to 100 scholarships a cycle. Doud explains, "As the cost of college education increased dramatically, [PG&E] knew that there were many deserving students who might not have a chance to fulfill their dreams of completing college." To help provide more assistance to deserving students, PG&E created this scholarship program.

"I would like to thank PG&E for believing in my academic potential and helping ease my financial burden so I can accomplish my degree," says Sproul. Caring about his academics, working hard on his assignments, maintaining an impressive GPA, and proficiency in his field of study have laid the foundation for a successful and fulfilling career. Sproul would like to one day become a field engineer in the petroleum industry or be placed in a position that allows him to work in a field that uses math and physics proficiencies. Given Bakersfield's large oil industry presence, it is likely that Sproul may start and continue his career right here in his hometown.

## NSH MBA continued from page 5

component of networking and the NSH MBA has program successfully helped me accomplish that.

NSH MBA is the premier Hispanic business organization dedicated to building and advancing Hispanic leadership through graduate management education and professional development. Bakersfield is among 39 other chapters in the U.S. Locally, their focus

is to increase the number of Hispanics graduating from master's business degree

programs through scholarships, career and professional development.



PHOTO COURTESY: NANCY SOLIS



## Meet 2013-2014 ASI President Hilda Nieblas

### Tell us about your current student status, and previous education?

I am a second year Graduate Student in the School of Business and Public Administration MPA program. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from CSUB.

### What was the first order of business upon taking the office of ASI President?

My first order of business was to build a strong team of students that have a passion for making change happen on campus. We have a good group of students that have been elected. It is my responsibility to set the tone and the atmosphere for the year. I am really excited to make sure we have the strongest team possible.

### What are the main goals or projects that you hope to accomplish during your term?

1. Make sure students know about ASI and what we do.
2. Have more students participate in the events and services we offer.
3. Have students communicate how they want us to represent them.

4. Bridge the gap between Faculty, Staff, and Students.
5. Represent the Student Body on every campus committee.

### What are you doing to engage students?

We're doing everything we can. This year, we will have a student assistant with marketing experience and skills. This person will help increase the promotion of what our organization does. If students know what we do, and how they benefit from it, they are more likely to engage in our events and services. One of the reasons why students do not participate in campus activities is because they aren't informed. If we can serve as a tool to get the word out and inform the students, then we are fulfilling one of our many responsibilities.

### Why is it important for students to become engaged?

The more engaged they are on campus, the more successful they will become. Getting involved on campus is an excellent way to gain knowledge and skills outside the classroom that they will be able to apply to future positions. Becoming engaged on campus is an excellent

way to network with others and meet new people. This also gives an opportunity for students to become engaged in new things that can essentially help them make decisions about what they aspire to do as a career in the future.

### What have you enjoyed the most so far about this new role?

I have enjoyed learning new things; not only about myself, but about others, and the job itself.

### What can students look forward to for the rest of the school year from ASI and their ASI president?

A lot! At the end of this year, I would like to see that more students know about what we do as an organization, such as the fact that we represent the Student Body on a state and federal Level.

**"I have enjoyed learning new things; not only about myself, but about others, and the job itself."**



# Bonnie Quiñonez

## CSUB alumna has risen from the front line of healthcare to administration

Bonnie Quiñonez always knew that she wanted to be at the forefront of healthcare. She began as a surgical assistant, spent years working in oncology, and then moved on to cancer registry. And now, more than two decades later, she is the Oncology Program Director for Mills-Peninsula Health Services, a not-for-profit health care organization, in San Mateo,

**"I immediately knew that CSUB provided everything I wanted, and I was home."**

California. In this role, Quiñonez is responsible for day-to-day operations of the cancer center including budgeting, patient satisfaction, and staff responsibilities. She's also responsible for the strategic growth of the oncology program as a whole, which includes surgical, radiation and medical oncology.

"Healthcare can be rewarding and exhausting, but I mostly just feel honored to be part of our oncology patients' journey," said Quiñonez.

Despite her high profile position, Quiñonez feels that the most influential job experience that helped shape who she is today is the three years she spent right here at home working at San Joaquin Community Hospital. It was

there that she formed part of the team that participated in the design, planning and building of the AIS Cancer Center. This center, which is affiliated with UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, offers an option for cancer diagnosis and treatment for patients right here at home. Being part of such a project is something Quiñonez cherishes to this day.

"The team gave me a signed picture of the AIS Cancer Center at San Joaquin Community Hospital that I hung in my direct line of view and I look at it every day," said Quiñonez. "In addition to my family, friends, and CSUB, this picture reminds me every day of my Bakersfield connection."

Although she attended other colleges and universities, and had obtained her Bachelor's of Science and Business Management from one of those institutions, she felt the experience didn't provide her the formal academic environment she was seeking. Years later she met with the CSUB MSA advisor and was sold on what CSUB had to offer her.

"I immediately knew that CSUB provided everything I wanted, and I was home," she said. "As an adult learner, employed full time at the Florence R. Wheeler Cancer Center, the formal academic environment was a challenge. But the time I spent at CSUB was incredible."

Quiñonez received her Master's degree in Science Administration in 2010. A few months after graduation, she accepted a management position at Saint John's health Center-John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica. Nearly a year later, she received the offer to join the cancer center team at San Joaquin. It was in June 2013 that she was offered her current position. Although she was already climbing up the healthcare ladder prior to her arrival at CSUB, Quiñonez attributes much of her current success to the education she received at CSUB, and she has this advice for future CSUB students.

"Each student will have a unique set of educational needs and challenges. I am no different, and faced many challenges to reaching my educational milestones," said Quiñonez. "The program at CSUB allowed me to continue to work, support my family, and accomplish my educational goals."

Quiñonez stays in contact with people she developed relationships with while at CSUB. She says this group of new friends and colleagues have encouraged her to grow and become a better leader. She is currently focusing on mastering the demands of her new role at Mills-Peninsula Health Services, but says she is confident that this is not the last major step in her career.

## Graduate student's academic and community accomplishments earn him scholarship

Since 1993, the CSUB Alumni Association has been honoring deserving CSUB graduates who are continuing their education by awarding them with the Alumni Association Scholarship. This year, the \$10,000 scholarship was awarded to recent graduate Marc Halling.

Halling graduated magna cum laude in the spring of 2013 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Geological Sciences. In alignment with the scholarship eligibility criteria, he will use the scholarship to help fund his Master's Degree in Geological Sciences at CSUB, which he is currently working towards. "I knew I wanted to pursue my Master's Degree and was out in the field working towards it two weeks after graduating with my Bachelor's." The scholarship will be used for school expenses such as fees, books, permits, etc., allowing Halling to focus his attention on his studies.

Given the specific eligibility criteria and the application process, Halling was excited and nervous

to apply for the scholarship. Halling submitted an application online with a short essay about himself. Based on that, he was chosen as a finalist and invited for an interview. When he was later contacted and told that he was the successful recipient he was shocked, "I knew I was up against some impressive students. I didn't expect to get the scholarship," he said.

Halling has found CSUB to be a close-knit school, which he finds great value in. "CSUB has a lot of the opportunities that come with a 'big name' college, but it has a far more personal feel and approach," he said. Halling truly enjoyed his undergraduate experience at CSUB and appreciates that the faculty, especially in the Geology department, get to know all of the students and are concerned with students' progress and development.

When he's not spending time on his studies, Halling enjoys participating in extra-curricular activates with his children. He



is involved in the scouting program where he serves as the troop committee secretary and as a Geology Merit Badge Counselor. Additionally, Halling has a minor in Theatre and enjoys participating in plays when the opportunity arises.

Once he has completed his Master's Degree, Halling hopes to one day work for a petroleum company. So touched by the generosity he has received, Halling looks forward to the day when he can contribute to the CSUB Alumni Association, "It is a wonderful gift to assist students who seek to improve themselves, as well as the community. Once I have a career of my own I will follow the example set by those who helped me along the way," he said.

### MARTINEZ continued from page 7

year was 3.57," said Martinez. "There is a great financial need among these students that we need to fulfill, but ultimately, HESF is about recognizing the excellence we find in our students."

Martinez has also been very active in several community, state and national organizations including the National Association of Schools of Public Administration (NASPAA), the Commission on Peer Review and Accreditation (COPRA), and Kern County Hispanic Educators. He is frequently seen

facilitating national leadership workshops and panels, including the annual Latino Higher Education Leadership Institute of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities in Chicago, Illinois. Martinez has also conducted scholarly research in topics such as "Latino Leadership Development" and "The Role of Hispanic Administrators" that have been published in Public Administration journals such as the *Public Administration Review* and the *American Review of Public Administration*. But despite being a highly sought after leadership

developer at national levels, a published scholarly researcher, and respected campus and community member, Martinez' first priority will always be the education of the students at CSUB.

"At CSUB, we are more than just preparing students. We're really doing something that matters in this community," said Martinez. "What we do is important and has meaning. Our students deserve the best university education and experience, and we are being asked to keep that obligation."



2013 Hispanic Excellence Scholarship Fund Recipients

PHOTO COURTESY: CSUB HESF

# CSUB WELCOMES NEW DEAN: Dr. Anne Houtman

## *The Science of Fitting In*

Take one look at her and you might never know CSUB's newest Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering (NSME) faced challenges much like those of many of Kern County's youth. But that is the story of Dr. Anne Houtman. "I was a minority in Oahu," said Houtman. "I was the only white girl in my area and it was a big culture shock for me."

Born in Kansas, Houtman and her family moved to Hawaii at a young age because her father was in the United States Army and had been posted there. She attended Hawaiian public schools, and aside from coping with feeling left out culturally, she says she wasn't challenged intellectually. As a result, when she arrived at Pomona College in Claremont, California, she felt unprepared. "It was terrifying, a big culture shift," she said. "But I was happy to be part of an intellectual institution. Pomona made me competitive and I worked really hard to catch up to everyone else."

And that she did. Houtman graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology, the first in her family to graduate college. She had always been interested in animal behavior. With the help of a fellowship for the National Science Foundation, she continued her Anthropology graduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles where she received her Master's degree. A Fullbright Scholarship from the Institute of International Education afforded her the opportunity to pursue her Doctoral degree with a focus on Zoology at the University of Oxford.

"Oxford is the best place in the world to study bird behavior," said Houtman. "They're so easy to watch." Houtman conducted fieldwork in Australia where she studied Zebra Finches. She said her kids were practically raised in field stations, where they could themselves appreciate animal observation and nature itself.

Upon the completion of her studies, Houtman held many academic positions including: Assistant Professor of Biology at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois; Founding Faculty and Assistant/Dean at Soka University of America in Aliso Viejo, California, and Director of the General Education Biology Program at California State University, Fullerton. During her time at Fullerton, she took time off to travel the United States in an RV with her husband, where she continued to conduct research and observe animal behavior. Her most recent position was as head Professor of the School of Life Sciences at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. It was while at Rochester that she came across the job opening of dean of NSME at CSUB.

"This position came up and it was perfect, such a perfect fit," she said. "CSUB has the sense of community, great academic programs that focus on students, and positive and constant relationships with community industry organizations. CSUB really is the perfect model on how industries and education can work together to educate our future community workers."



PHOTO COURTESY: Will Prouty

Houtman began her role as CSUB Dean of NSME in July 2013. She says her job is to strengthen CSUB's programs and to keep students engaged. "We already do a great job of educating students in science, math, engineering and nursing, and we also do a lot of work with high school students, preparing them for a university education," she said. Houtman wants to reach out more to children before they reach high school, so they will start thinking of themselves as scientists, engineers, and nurses – and as CSUB Roadrunners – while they are still young. She also hopes to engage more with NSME alumni, many of whom are still in the region and have much they can share with current students. "We are extremely pleased to have Dr. Anne Houtman join



our senior leadership team," said Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of CSUB. "She is an excellent scholar and leader who brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering and the University. Dean Houtman will continue to provide vision and leadership as we expand our programs to meet the needs of the students in our region."

Houtman says she can relate to the struggle that many first-time freshmen can sometimes go through. But she's happy to take on the challenge of making a difference in the lives of these and every student at CSUB.

"I see what can happen to their self-esteem," she said. "Students are redefining themselves during their first

college years and sometimes aren't aware of NSME majors. They give themselves very narrow choices that can sometimes be confusing and demotivating. I feel that it is our obligation as educators to let them know we are here. We need to do research and help them so that they are the best they can be, and that will make us a better institution."

As for the young girl from Hawaii, Houtman doesn't see herself returning anytime soon, as her parents have now retired and moved back to Kansas. CSUB is her new home, and she says, "I fall in love with this place more and more everyday."

**"CSUB has the sense of community, great academic programs that focus on students, and positive and constant relationships with community industry organizations. CSUB really is the perfect model on how industries and education can work together to educate our future community workers."**



# The Future of the Region

## Dr. Horace Mitchell, President CSUB

This special section of Your CSUB magazine explores what the future of

this region may look like as seen through several different lenses. This, the first article in this section, focuses on the future of the region in terms of higher education as envisioned by CSUB President, Dr. Horace Mitchell. Future issues of the special section will feature perspectives given on the topic from representatives in regionally important industry sectors.

When asked to give his perspective on the future of higher education in this region, Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of CSU Bakersfield was able to provide well-considered and deeply contemplated insights from his nearly 10 years at CSUB. There are a number of influences that will shape the future of this region, but to Mitchell, three are most significant. The first being industry, the second being education, and the third is quality of life. While they are all distinct and different, they are closely interrelated.

According to Mitchell, supporting regional economic development is dependent upon having an available highly educated workforce. More skilled workers will result in higher paying jobs in the community, which then impact earnings, and ultimately affect quality of life. Higher education plays a major role in economic development; not only at the university level, but also at the community college level where career technical skills, as well as transfer programs to four-year institutions, are critical.

Working with partners in K-12 education, community college, community-based organizations, and other entities to advance educational attainment within the region is one of CSUB's core strategic goals. An illustration of the importance of

these types of collaborations is the significant increase the Kern High School District has seen in graduates who are prepared for college or university level work. As that trend continues, more students will enroll in two and four-year degree programs. Because, according to Mitchell, a higher percentage of residents with community college certificates, associate and bachelor degrees, and beyond are required to attract the kinds of industries that will position the region for sustained success.

To help prepare the region for continued vitality, in both the short and long term, CSUB is specifically addressing the challenge of creating sustainable human resource pipelines for major industries in the region including agriculture and energy, through new degree programs and concentrations. University administrators have met with industry sectors to ask for their input on what programs would best serve their needs. Mitchell shared that the agriculture sector responded a full agriculture program isn't necessary; instead an agri-business program would be most useful. It is from this type of program that local agricultural companies can recruit senior staff and management level employees who are largely from the region and will likely want to stay due to their existing ties to the area. Currently agricultural companies find themselves recruiting from out of the area, at high expense, and often with higher than desired turnover when employees later relocate out of the area.

And similarly with the energy sector, a vital part of the region's economy, the University sought advice and input from local experts. Until three years ago CSUB had no engineering programs because from a CSU system perspective those programs were available to students at other campuses. But that logic didn't take into account the needs of employers. The need for trained

local candidates has long been an issue, one that CSUB is ready to help address. In a time of uncertain state funding, faculty in what is now the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering set out to write grants to start new engineering programs. They secured new funding of over \$4 million and in 2011 were able to begin a new program in Computer Engineering. Two other new degree programs, one in Electrical Engineering and another Engineering Sciences, were both added in Fall of 2012. As recently as Fall 2013 we added three new engineering concentrations in related areas: Petroleum Engineering, Information Security, and Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

But those aren't the only new programs. The CSU Board of Trustees gave CSUB approval to establish a doctoral program in educational leadership and in early 2011 the program was introduced. No funding came with the approval, however, which prompted CSUB to enter into a unique partnership with Fresno State University to bring their Educational Leadership Doctoral Program to CSUB. The partnership makes it possible for a doctoral program to be offered in this community before it could have been offered independently by CSUB, while at the same time allowing time to develop funding sources and seek additional faculty. CSUB will offer an independent doctoral program beginning in 2015.

In Mitchell's view, this region has the potential to have a very bright future. CSUB plays a major role in facilitating that future through its active collaboration with partners on workforce development, enhancing the quality of life, advancing regional economic development and supporting higher levels of educational attainment. The opportunities abound, and Mitchell is ever optimistic about CSUB's role in the future of the region; where lives and communities are transformed through education.



## "The Journey" depicted in *The Grapes of Wrath* arrives at CSUB

The Walter Stiern Library Dezember Reading room was filled with over 200 people made up of High School and College students, local teachers, CSUB faculty and staff, and community members. All were there to hear about "The Journey," a project of the National Steinbeck Center retracing the steps of the Joad Odyssey depicted in *The Grapes of Wrath*. The visit to CSUB was a prelude to the university's celebration of the 75th anniversary of the novel in 2014.

Attendees were able to hear about the experience directly from its participants: renowned playwright Octavio Solis, literary/community historian and visual artist Patricia Wakida, and veteran Hollywood and network television filmmaker/producer P.J. Palmer. Together, they embarked on the journey the Joads, the fictional family depicted in *The Grapes of Wrath*, took along Route 66 through Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona, towards California and their hope for a better life. During the 10-day trip, they conducted workshops, performances and over 16 programs at partner organizations along the route. Day nine of their journey brought them to CSUB where they received a warm reception.

"Over 200 people showed up. It was amazing, quite lovely," says Walker in his video blog about the trip. "They had a beautiful reception. Lots of high school students came and many took

pictures with us. It was cool to meet them."

The journey ended in Sunset Camp in Weedpatch, California; the place the Joads lived when they arrived in California. During their visit,

and the memories. It's who we are, who we've become and who we might become."

The CSUB 75th Anniversary Celebration of *The Grapes of Wrath* will kick-off with a Gala in February at the Historic



the crew interviewed several farmworkers and residents about life in the camp today. These will be used in a documentary the group is creating about their journey.

Officials with the CSUB School of Arts and Humanities, who are leading the 2014 celebration efforts, were thrilled with the visit from the National Steinbeck Center and its relation to the history of the novel and its meaning in today's world.

"*The Grapes of Wrath* is a classic novel that is really bigger than life and has taken on mythic proportions," said Dr. Richard Collins, Dean of the CSUB School of Arts and Humanities. "So what we'd like to do is celebrate the novel and all of its cultural legacy. We celebrate the art, the history and the memories. It's who we are, who we've become and who we might become."

Fox Theatre that will include a screening of the film. A complete list of events planned can be found at <http://www.csub.edu/ah/grapesofwrath/>.

# CSU Bakersfield debuts Distinguished Speaker Series with prominent entrepreneur



It was a packed house, as both campus and community members anxiously entered the CSUB Doré Theatre to hear Elon Musk speak at the debut of the CSU Bakersfield Distinguished Speaker Series. Musk, CEO and Chief Designer of SpaceX and Tesla Motors, spoke to the crowd about his triumphs, his low points, and his hopes for the future of his endeavors.

"The purpose of the CSU Bakersfield Distinguished Speaker Series is to bring to the university and community distinguished individuals whose achievements have had national and/or international significance," said Dr. Horace Mitchell, President of CSUB. It is anticipated that there will be two speakers each year.

Born in South Africa, Musk is an engineer and entrepreneur who builds and operates companies to solve environmental, social and economic challenges. He holds a physics degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a business degree from Wharton. He co-founded PayPal and currently drives strategy, development and design at two companies he created: Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX) and Tesla Motors. He also serves as Chairman on a third company, SolarCity, which

he co-founded. Musk led SpaceX's efforts to be the first private company to successfully launch and dock a spacecraft with the international space station. He is also a trustee of the X Prize Foundation, which promotes renewable energy technologies.

The CSU Bakersfield Distinguished Speaker Series Advisory Committee is composed of campus and community members, along with Congressman Kevin McCarthy serving as an honorary chair. As an alumnus, McCarthy continues to support his alma mater and community by collaborating with partners of the University to enhance its programs through initiatives such as the Distinguished Speaker Series.

"Elon Musk is known around the world as a successful entrepreneur and a man of tremendous ideas, and I'm excited that Elon accepted my

invitation to come to Bakersfield and speak at my alma mater CSUB," said McCarthy.

"The series is a shining example of our commitment to excellence as we work to secure powerful partnerships that help move Kern County and the southern San Joaquin Valley forward," said Mitchell.

**"The purpose of the CSU Bakersfield Distinguished Speaker Series is to bring to the university and community distinguished individuals whose achievements have had national and/or international significance."**



# American Cancer Society CMO breaks ranks about being sick in America

Even the best-intentioned physicians will sometimes over-treat, often resulting in serious harm to patients. Couple over-treatment, and the reality that often times treatment options are driven by financial benefit – for physicians, drug companies, and hospitals – and costs skyrocket.

These are the topics Dr. Otis Brawley, Chief Medical Officer for the American Cancer Society, discussed in a packed house during his lecture at CSU Bakersfield on October 9th. The Kegley Institute of Ethics hosted the 9th Annual Fall Lecture titled "Doing Harm and Doing Good: Health Care Practices in the United States."

These issues are the focus of Brawley's bestselling book, *How We Do Harm: A Doctor Breaks Ranks about Being Sick in America*, where he discusses the many near-miraculous breakthroughs in cancer treatment over the last 50 years that have resulted in most cancer diagnoses no longer being a death sentence. But he also exposes the damaging practices that are happening within the medical industry, with a particular focus on oncology. His book sheds light on a variety of medical topics such as patient treatment based on payment ability and the rising healthcare costs of unnecessary and unproven treatments. In his fight against patient mistreatment, Brawley calls for a rational and compassionate approach to healthcare.

"The timing for Dr. Brawley's visit is wonderful, as we're in the midst of a national debate about what to call very early



stage cell abnormalities," noted Dr. Christopher Meyers, KIE's Director. "Calling them 'cancer' typically means an industrial strength response, sometimes saving lives, sometimes causing far more harm than benefit. Dr. Brawley is the international expert on such topics and

we are very  
proud to  
bring him  
to



Bakersfield."

Brawley is a world-renowned cancer expert and professor at Emory University where he teaches hematology, oncology and epidemiology. Brawley's view of medicine and the politics of illness

in America have derived from his many years in the medical field. In addition to his leadership position with the American Cancer Society, Brawley has served as the medical director of the Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence at Grady Memorial Hospital, and as deputy director for cancer control at Winship Cancer Institute. These roles have resulted in a deep understanding of healthcare today.

As part of their ongoing support, the Kegley Institute of Ethics lectures are sponsored by San Joaquin Community Hospital and Kern Schools Credit Union, and are co-sponsored by Kern Medical Center.

**The Kegley Institute of Ethics hosted the 9th Annual Fall Lecture titled "Doing Harm and Doing Good: Health Care Practices in the United States."**

# One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern Fall 2013 Program brings discussion of science and ethics to CSUB

Every year CSU Bakersfield, The Kern County Library, and One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern partner to encourage the community to share experiences related to a single book through discussions, educational programming and entertainment.

"Each year, the Kern County Library gets to put into action our passion for the concept that one great book's universal themes and ideas can speak to our lives in Bakersfield and Kern County in compelling and meaningful ways," said Kristie Coons, Coordinator of One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern for the Kern County Library. The programs focus this year was to launch a community conversation about medical research, public health and social justice issues to create a more informed Kern County.

The Fall 2013 community read,

Bestseller tells the story of a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells were taken at the



age of 30, without her knowledge or consent. Now referred to as the HeLa cells, these one of a kind miracle cells have became a vital tool in the medical industry, saving millions of lives.

CSUB engages the First-Year Experience students to read the chosen book through the Runner Reader Program. "The partnership between CSUB

our students and the community," said Dr. Emerson Case, CSUB Professor of English and Coordinator for the First-Year Experience program. "By sharing the experience of reading a common book, our students learn more about the community, and members of the community learn more about our students and CSUB."

During the fall quarter, there were three events that brought the community together surrounding the reading: an informal discussion with Lacks'

descendants, an interactive talk with a medical expert and an evening with the scientific journalist who uncovered her story.

To kick off the list of fall events, CSUB hosted the "Meet the Lacks Family" discussion. The information discussion focused on Lacks' story and the legacy of her famous cells. Moderated by Colleen Dillaway, Director of Public Affairs and Communication at CSUB, the guest presenters included her granddaughter, Kim Lacks, and great-granddaughter, Veronica Spencer. Although neither granddaughter had met Henrietta, they used humor, personal insights and real-life family facts to paint a picture that brought life to a woman hidden by the legacy of the HeLa cells. The discussion covered many factors ranging from race, healthcare, medical ethics and laws in the medical field.

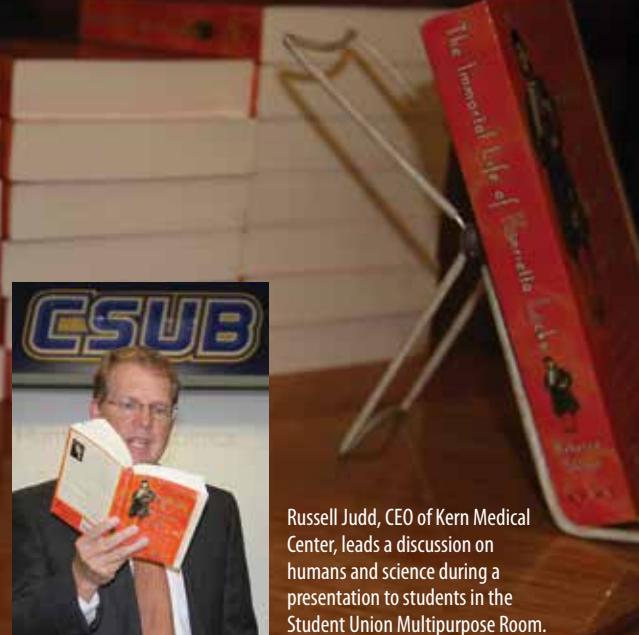
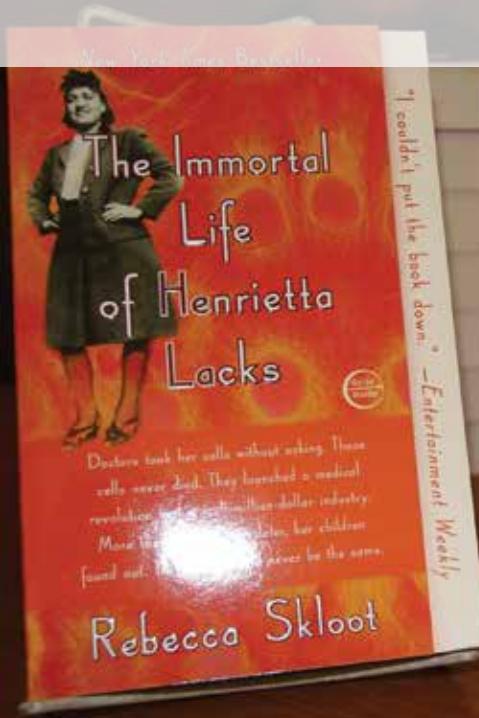


Family members of Henrietta Lacks answer questions from the audience in a discussion moderated by CSUB Public Affairs and Communications Director Colleen Dillaway inside the CSUB Doré Theatre.

in alignment with the programs focus, was "The Immortal Life of Henriette Lacks." This captivating New York Times

and the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern programs helps to create an important connection between

As a follow up, "Is There Room for Humans in Science?" a book discussion led by Russell Judd, CEO of Kern Medical



Russell Judd, CEO of Kern Medical Center, leads a discussion on humans and science during a presentation to students in the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

Center, was held on October 23 and discussed the expansion of science and its impact on persons and the issue of maintaining a balance between the need for scientific advancement and humanism.

This interactive discussion concentrated on thought provoking topics such as humanism, science, healthcare, immortality and other ethical situations specifically related to the treatment of Henrietta Lacks. Judd approached each topic from a medical perspective and a human perspective. "Scientists take away emotional connection from their subject," he said when discussing the conflict between humans and science. He also reminded everyone about Henrietta's ever-lasting legacy, "Henrietta has achieved true immortality and will live on forever through her cells." Community members, CSUB students and faculty, and high-school students from Independence and South High school attended, visually representing the diversity of people touched by Henrietta's story.

To culminate the series of events scheduled around the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern project, the program's partners sponsored

an evening with Rebecca Skloot, author of "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." As a young community college student, Skloot's interest was piqued when a biology professor mentioned the only known fact about the source of HeLa cells: they came from a black woman named Henrietta Lacks. Skloot's curiosity and passion about the woman behind the HeLa cells led to an intensive decade-long research and writing project, resulting in *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Dr. Case credits the author visit as the hallmark event of the Runner Reader Program. "The author's keynote speech serves as the culmination of both the Runner Reader program and the One Book, One Bakersfield, One Kern program and provides our students and the community with the opportunity to experience the book selection in a very different way than they would normally experience it," says Case. As part of the visit, audience members had the opportunity to ask Skloot questions, exchange ideas about the book and gain an understanding of Skloot's writing process. The event wrapped up with a book signing, giving readers a chance to gain a one-on-one interaction with Skloot by

getting a picture with her or by asking individual questions. Case states that the overall goal of the author visit is to inspire students, "Students get to see that a published author is just a living, breathing human being like they are, hopefully inspiring them to work hard and create works of their own."

**Skloot's curiosity and passion about the woman behind the HeLa cells led to an intensive decade-long research and writing project, resulting in "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks."**

# Assemblymember addresses needs of healthcare education during forum at CSUB

California 32nd District Assemblymember Rudy Salas hosted a hearing at CSUB in November of the Select Committee on Workforce and Vocational Development in California on



"California's Allied Healthcare Workforce Needs."

"The demand for healthcare services is growing due to an increase in population, retiring workers and the implementation of the Affordable Care Act," said Salas. "We must work together to have an ample and trained workforce to meet our future needs."

The Select Committee hearing featured local and regional experts, including CSUB Nursing Department Chair Debbie Boschini, who provided information on how to become an allied healthcare worker, existing programs and how to move up in the healthcare profession.

"The Central Valley is already short on healthcare providers including physicians, nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, nurses, and allied healthcare workers. Recruitment to the region can be challenging, so we need to have programs in place to grow our own," said Boschini. "Under these conditions, it is critically important for our community and legislators to work together to create a purposeful and comprehensive plan to ensure that the healthcare workforce needs of Kern County are met."

Allied Health Professions

are a distinct group of health professionals that include laboratory and x-ray technicians, medical, pharmacy and nursing assistants. Together with a range of technical and support staff they may deliver direct patient care, rehabilitation, treatment, diagnostics and health improvement interventions to restore and maintain optimal physical, sensory, psychological, cognitive and social functions.

The hearing attracted healthcare professionals, educators and students. Salas hopes the discussion will lead to action for future funding for healthcare education and vocational programs in educational institutions across the state.

"The hearing renewed the focus on the healthcare needs of Kern County, and I thank Mr. Salas for bringing attention to this important topic," said Boschini.

# Majority Whip hosts Valley Fever Symposium at CSUB

Congressman Kevin McCarthy may spend much of his time in Washington, but he hasn't forgotten about the effects of Valley Fever in the Central Valley.

"You cannot walk away from this community without realizing what valley fever has affected," said McCarthy. "You know somebody, or you've been affected, by Valley Fever."

This is what led McCarthy to host a two-day Valley Fever Symposium, with the second day held at CSUB. Leading the health experts panel were Dr. Tom Frieden, Director of the Centers for Disease Control, Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Dr. Royce Johnston, professor of medicine at UCLA and Kern Medical Center's chief of infectious diseases. Other political leaders, who represent the Central Valley, were also part of a panel. In attendance were local health officials, community

members, and CSUB faculty and staff.

According to the California Department of Public Health, Valley Fever (coccidioidomycosis), is an

illness caused by a fungus called Coccidioides which lives in the soil and dirt in

certain areas. The fungus usually infects the lungs causing flu-like symptoms. More severe forms of the illness are rare but can be very serious and sometimes fatal. Over 75% of cases reported have been in people who live in the San Joaquin Valley.

During the symposium, officials had the opportunity to see the community's involvement in

fighting Valley Fever as well as the need for further research as testing. Currently, there is no cure and no vaccine for Valley Fever. Because of this need, it was announced



at the symposium that Bakersfield will be the site of a Valley Fever clinical trial, which will be authored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"That's the start of being able to move towards the best treatment, and moving to a vaccine," said McCarthy.

**CHRISTOPHER HENRY HORWEGE** ('78 BS Business Administration) is in the US Air Force and is presently living and working as a resource manager at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

**DAVID ROGERS** ('76 BA) has started a new career in community journalism as Editor and Publisher of Blowing Rock News, serving the town of Blowing Rock, NC and its surrounding communities.

## '70s

**RONALD C. PIERCE** ('83 BA Fine Arts/Music) is employed at Elk Grove Unified School District and is an Operations Manager.

**JENNIFER YOUNGREN** ('89 BA Business) is a self-employed Blogger at [www.pickleball.com](http://www.pickleball.com).

## '80s

**CHRISTIAN OLIVER CHUA** ('96 BA Business Administration/Finance) is President at Animated Signs Inc.

**KIMBELYNN COLEMAN** ('94 BS Marketing) is President at MudMan Consulting Inc.

**JANA CONSHAFTER** ('99 BS Business Administration) is received her Ph.D. in Human Resource Development and Ethics in August 2013 from the University of Minnesota and accepted a faculty position at Winona State University, Winona, Minnesota.

**AARON ELLIS** ('93 BS Business Management) is a Deputy Director of Kern County Employers Training Resource.

**EULOGIO SHAWN GUMATAOTAO** ('94 BA Psychology) is employed by GET, LLC as a Managing Partner and an Adjunct Professor of Communications at the University of Guam.

**DARIN D. LENZ** ('97 BA English) is working at Fresno Pacific University as an Associate Professor of History.

**ANNE OAKES** ('97 BA Liberal Studies) is a teacher at McKittrick School.

**JASON L. OLIVER** ('92 BA English) is working as an attorney.

**JENNIFER REBECCA RANDEL** ('97 B.A. English) is employed by the Kern High School District as a Systems Application Specialist.

**MATTHEW W. ROSS** ('94 BA Political Science) is employed at Vineland School District as an educator.[pickleball.com](http://pickleball.com).

## '90s

**JEFFRY P. LOOKER** ('05 BS Business) is a District Business Manager at TIC.

**MONICA RODRIGUEZ** ('05 BS Nursing) is working for Kern County Public Health Services Department as a Public Health Nurse II.

**LUCAS RUCKS** ('02 BA Liberal Studies, '07 MS Administration) is working at Central Washington University as a Higher Education Administrator.

**GUADALUPE Z TAPIA** ('03 BS Business Administration, '08 MPA) is working at Clinica Sierra Vista as a Social Worker.

**PATRICK WITCHER** ('02 MA Education Administration) is a vice principal for the Bakersfield City School District.

## '00s

see CLASS NOTES page 24



## The Sheldon Scholarship Endowment: Hard work has many rewards

He may be 95 years old, but he still remembers when he started working at the young age of ten: selling and delivering magazines, making ice cream at a coffee shop, and even chopping weeds in his neighborhood. To this day, Dr. Robert Sheldon knows the value of hard work. Yet he also knows the personal struggle of still not earning enough for an education. Because of this, he and his wife Jean have graciously given to hard-working CSUB students through the Sheldon Scholarship Endowment since 1996.

Although he was born in Los Angeles, Dr. Sheldon considers himself a Bakersfield native. He moved here at the age of seven, and was a student at both

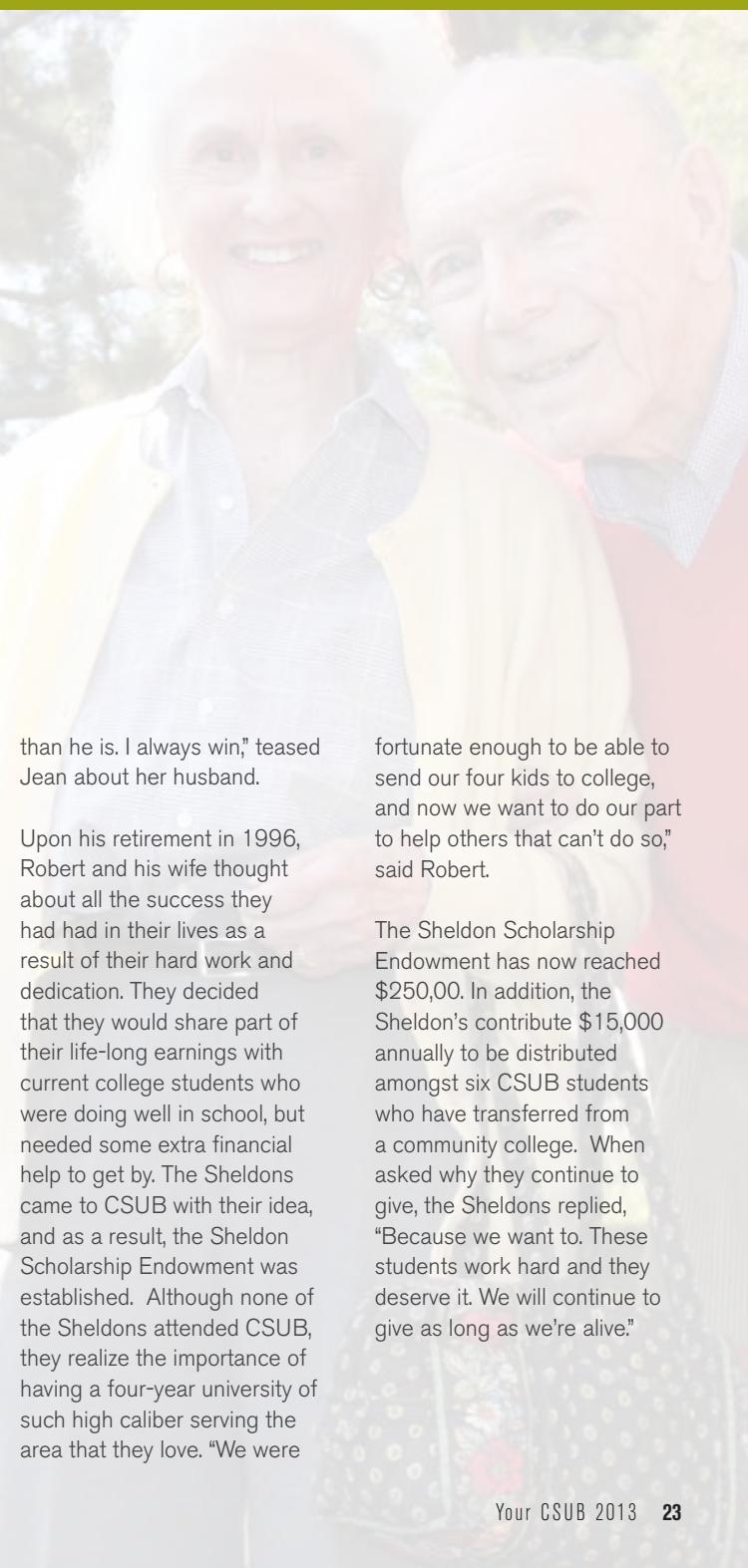
Bakersfield High School and Bakersfield College. Sheldon always knew he would follow in his stepfather's footsteps and become a doctor. After BC, he transferred to medical school at Stanford University in northern California where he met his wife, who at that time was a nursing student. Due to the need for medical staff during World War II, many doctors and nurses were sent overseas, leaving room for growth for the medical students left behind. Jean became part of the senior nurse group that ran the wards at Stanford University Hospital, while Robert worked in obstetrics, where he helped deliver over 60 babies during an especially memorable two-week period. The couple married, and graduated from

Stanford. Eventually, Robert was also called to duty by the Navy to help in their medical division. There, he was assigned to general surgery, and he also assisted as an ear, nose, and throat specialist, just like his stepfather. Upon his return, the couple moved to Seattle Washington, where Robert worked at a Naval hospital. Robert was again called by the armed forces to serve during the Korean War. From there, he was transferred to a Naval Hospital in Guam, where he and his growing family resided for two years.

In 1958, the Sheldons returned to Bakersfield, a place they raised their kids and now refer to as their home. Robert opened his own ear, nose, and



The Sheldon Scholarship Endowment has now reached \$250,000. In addition, the Sheldon's contribute \$15,000 annually to be distributed amongst six CSUB students who have transferred from a community college.



throat practice, and in his spare time, he joined the BC Alumni Association and served as the on-site doctor for the BC and BHS football teams. "We volunteered our time," said Robert. "Sometimes we would even provide medical care to the opposing teams because they didn't have a traveling doctor with them." Robert also assisted in raising funds to build dormitories for veterans to reside in while attending college upon their return home. Jean spent her time taking care of the home and the couple's children. Despite their busy lives, the Sheldons always took time to enjoy life as a couple doing much of what they love, such as traveling to many European countries, cycling, and playing golf. "I'm a much better golfer

than he is. I always win," teased Jean about her husband.

Upon his retirement in 1996, Robert and his wife thought about all the success they had had in their lives as a result of their hard work and dedication. They decided that they would share part of their life-long earnings with current college students who were doing well in school, but needed some extra financial help to get by. The Sheldons came to CSUB with their idea, and as a result, the Sheldon Scholarship Endowment was established. Although none of the Sheldons attended CSUB, they realize the importance of having a four-year university of such high caliber serving the area that they love. "We were

fortunate enough to be able to send our four kids to college, and now we want to do our part to help others that can't do so," said Robert.

The Sheldon Scholarship Endowment has now reached \$250,000. In addition, the Sheldon's contribute \$15,000 annually to be distributed amongst six CSUB students who have transferred from a community college. When asked why they continue to give, the Sheldons replied, "Because we want to. These students work hard and they deserve it. We will continue to give as long as we're alive."

# CSU Bakersfield

**Office for University Advancement**  
Mail Stop: 19 AW / 445  
9001 Stockdale Highway  
Bakersfield, California 93311-1022



## CLASS NOTES continued from page 21

**IRMA CERVANTES** ('99 BA Communications, '13 MPA) was awarded two Emmys in June 2013 from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for her work as a video journalist on news special series depicting the History of the United Farm Workers and President Barack Obama's visit to Keene, CA.

**SARAH DURBIN** ('13 BA Psychology) is currently working at Easter Seals as a Behavior Intervention Therapist.

**KATHLEEN JOYCE IVES** ('85 BS Accounting, '09 MPA, '13 MSA) is a Chief Finance Officer for First 5 Kern.

**KENNETH DAVID MOORE** (1'3 MA Education Administration) is employed at TJUHSD as a Counselor.

**TEMECCA MARIE ROBINSON** ('10 BA Liberal Studies) is employed by Prospect Mortgage as a Loan Officer Assistant and is working on starting her own business.

**TZE WEE TAN** ('12 BS Geology) is working for Aera Energy LLC as a Geotech.

# '2010s