

your CSUB

CSU Bakersfield News Magazine • Winter 2013

Sensational Sophomores



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ON THE COVER:
Sensational Sophomores
2012-2013



Rowdy Run is on course to become an annual tradition

Led by the Roadrunner mascot, Rowdy, and dressed in CSUB blue and gold, the crowd took off across the field. Over the PA system, a voice announced the Graduating Class of 2016.

In the scheme of things, California State University, Bakersfield is a young university. Since opening its doors in 1970, there has remained plenty of room to create new traditions as the campus grows. This fall, under the leadership of CSUB's new Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Thomas Wallace, three new rituals ushered in the freshman class.

New Student Convocation was the scene of two of these new traditions: parents tacked gold pins onto their freshmen in a pinning ceremony and academically successful second-year students cheered them on from the Sensational Sophomores section.

The following evening, energy filled the air as more than 100 freshmen, CSUB staff, faculty and alumni convened at the far end of the soccer field during the break between the men's and women's double header soccer games. Led by the Roadrunner mascot, Rowdy, and dressed in CSUB blue and gold, the crowd took off across the field. Over the PA system, a voice announced the Graduating Class of 2016.

This was the Rowdy Run.

"To be a part of sharing that excitement, it was a wonderful feeling. Actually, exhilarating," Wallace said.

Wallace admits he borrowed the idea from Vanderbilt University when he saw a similar event celebrating freshmen at a football game against the University of Mississippi, also known as Ole Miss. (Wallace worked at Ole Miss for 20 years).

"It's a way of introducing our freshman class to the campus and to the Bakersfield community," he said. "But it's also a chance to emphasize degree completion. They are introduced as the class of 2016. The expectation is, while we are excited about your running across the soccer field to the CSUB fight song, we want to also be excited four years from now when you walk across the stage to get your diploma."

Wallace says he expects the Rowdy Run to grow each year as the new tradition takes hold among freshmen. He also looks forward to implementing more traditions at CSUB.

"I look forward to working with our campus, students, faculty, staff and alumni on developing traditions that are good for our campus," he said.

"To be a part of sharing that excitement, it was a wonderful feeling. Actually, exhilarating."



Runners Recycle!

A new bike trailer at CSUB is catching attention – and waste. Once a week, members of the recently established club, Students for Sustainability, pedal the bike around campus collecting recyclables from containers they've placed in classrooms.

The club and the bike trailer are the brainchildren of CSUB student Heath Emerson, a psychology major graduating in March. He co-founded the club last spring with his friend Scott Westbrook (now a CSUB alumnus) and built the bike trailer with the help of his grandfather over the summer.

"My time here was winding down and I was just thinking of what I can do to at least make a difference," Emerson said. "Coming from my psychology background, I realized that getting people together and forming relationships and doing things to promote sustainability and environmental consciousness was something I could do."

The students tapped Dr. Carol Raupp to be the club advisor. Emerson said he was greatly influenced by her environmental psychology course, which focuses on the awareness of environmental issues and why people do or don't approach them.

The club decided first to tackle the issue of waste generation and recycling on campus. The students discussed that although several blue recycling cans dot the campus grounds,

none are placed inside classrooms. However, they found plenty of recyclable items inside classroom trash cans.

"Recycling is something that everybody can do to get into a sustainability mindset. It's really simple and it's just one step, to start with something small," said club president Danielle DeCant, a senior English major.

So the club launched a new program, 'Runners Recycle!' And their goal is ambitious: to place a recycling bin in every classroom.

"Wherever there was a trash can, there needed to be a recycling option," Emerson said.

The club members asked people they knew to sign up for free recycling bins from CalRecycle, then donate them to the cause. So far the club has placed about 30 bins in classrooms around campus, mostly in Dorothy Donahoe Hall.

The next step was to figure out what to do with the recyclables being collected. Club members approached Facilities Management about adding the new recycling stream to campus pickups, but the staff does not have the time handle the additional bins.

So the students – with the blessing of Facilities Management – volunteer their time to collect and sort through the classroom bins once a week. They also take the items to

a local recycling center and receive cash in return.

"The fact that this catches additional recycling, we're happy with that," said Pat Jacobs, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management. "In the past, the students have not gotten involved too much in what we're doing for recycling. That's why I'm so interested in them doing this. It will probably take away a little from the volume we collect, but if in the long run it fosters more student participation in recycling, then that's a benefit."

The recycling revenue goes into the club's fund for sustainability programs and supplies. Two more upcoming projects involve marketing and outreach for existing initiatives. One is Recyclemania, an annual event in which universities compete against each other to see who can recycle the most waste. The other is Food Service's composting program at Runner Café and University Grill, which involves composting food waste as well as corn-based utensils and paper-based boxes, napkins, cups and straws.

"It is important for students to be involved with sustainability so they can understand the importance of protecting our environment and utilizing our resources in a responsible way," said David Corral, Food Services Director.

Student leaders are looking forward to more students stepping up to the plate to take a lead in sustainability issues on campus.

"I'm happy they saw the problem, got together a group of people, and took the leadership to do something about it," said student Hilda Nieblas, Vice President of Programming for Associated Students, Inc., which is organizing Recyclemania this year. "With their help this year, hopefully we become more successful with Recyclemania and more successful all year around with recycling."

Richard Collins:

Connecting the Arts and Humanities to everyday life

Two and a half years ago, Dr. Richard Collins flew to California to interview for a deanship at CSU Bakersfield. With his luggage lost by the airline, he showed up in his traveling clothes: jeans and a Polo shirt. But he was unflappable – he'd just been ordained as a Zen Buddhist monk days earlier at a meditation retreat.

No matter the costume – whether it be a suit and tie, a black monk's robe, or even white fencing gear (he's also a burgeoning fencer) – Collins keeps an even keel.

"Some people think that Zen is some sort of transcendental state of serenity," Collins said. "But really, Zen practice is largely just a matter of living in the present moment and seeing things the way they are and not getting too stressed out because things aren't the way we think they are supposed to be. Without this attitude, I don't think I could handle being a dean, where nothing is ever exactly as you'd like it to be."

As founding dean of the newly formed School of Arts and Humanities at CSUB, Collins was immediately faced with budget cutbacks and the need to do more with less. Despite adversity, the school has moved ahead with several innovative projects under Collins' leadership. These include new academic institutes, campus and community events, and creative ways of fundraising.

"I have found that Richard deals with conflict and disorganization and budgets with a sense of humor and lack of ego, which help him to resolve problems more quickly," said English professor Dr. Marit McArthur.

Arts and Humanities Matter

One of Collins' first acts was to launch an initiative called "Arts and Humanities Matter," a philosophy from which the school could reach out to both the campus and local community. So how do they matter?

"Well, the usual response is, they entertain and enlighten us. But it's more than that," Collins said. "We are already formed by the arts and humanities. By studying them, we are studying who we are and how we got that way. There's also a formative element. We're not just reflecting culture, but we're forming culture. People who study arts and humanities have the chance to help form and reform society."

Connecting the arts and humanities to everyday life is now the driving mission of the school, which includes the disciplines of fine arts, performing arts, history, language, communication, philosophy and religion. The school accomplishes this through public programming, both on and off campus.

"Dr. Collins is a highly valued member of the Academic Affairs team, and has very quickly become engaged with the community," said Dr. Soraya Coley, CSUB Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "His focus on 'connecting the arts and humanities to everyday life' is so essential to our mission as a regional comprehensive university."

One vehicle for programming is the school's institutes. The long-established Kegley Institute of Ethics, which brings renowned speakers to deliver well-attended public lectures on timely ethical topics, has recently been joined by two new ones: The Public History Institute, which studies and celebrates local history, and the Institute for Religion, Education and Public Policy, which examines how private belief informs public policy and how teaching comparative religion in schools can help with issues of tolerance and diversity. Ultimately, Collins says, he envisions a Center for Public Humanities, which would encompass all of the school's institutes, including a still-in-the-works Basque Studies Institute, which will focus on Kern County's Basque heritage.

Other types of community-oriented programming include joint fine arts exhibitions with local arts organizations, music and theater performances in local schools, topical panel discussions, and public workshops. During "Arab Spring," several faculty members gave a talk on the cultural and political contexts of the uprisings. Collins himself has taught free writing workshops at the Beale Memorial Library in downtown Bakersfield and was the inaugural writer-in-residence for a new creative writing workshop offered at CSUB's Walter Stiern Library.

"He's certainly a sincere advocate for the humanities, of literature and religious studies, for instance, as fields of study that actually help our students live better lives," McArthur said.

Of course, with any initiative, funding is an issue. Many of the initiatives are being tackled on a shoestring budget, using existing resources and the passion of faculty, staff and students. When the 2013 Visiting Sculptor Program needed extra funding for a larger-than-life sculpture of Martin Luther King, Jr., Collins supported a creative fundraising effort utilizing the social media site Kickstarter.com. The project brought in more than \$4,000 in community donations, including a sizable donation from philosophy professor Dr. Jacquelyn Kegley. The outdoor sculpture is now displayed on the west side of the library.

Perhaps the most exciting project on the horizon is the first phase of a new Humanities Complex to be built on the northwest corner of campus. The project will start with a Fine Arts Center, with studio space, safer amenities, and a computer lab

see COLLINS page 6



No matter the costume – whether it be a suit and tie, a black monk’s robe, or even white fencing gear (he’s also a burgeoning fencer) – Collins keeps an even keel.

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for digital arts. Collins has had a hand in the final design of the center, with significant consultation from the Art Department.

“Richard Collins has brought a new perspective to the university. His connection and concern for the departments within Arts and Humanities breathe new life into the programs,” said Joyce Kohl, Chair of the Art Department.

Connecting to Kern County

When Collins got the job at CSUB, he left his position at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, where he had been Chair of the Department of Arts, English and Humanities for three years. Prior to that, his 25-year teaching career as an English professor included stints in Bulgaria, Romania and Wales. His Ph.D. in English is from UC Irvine.

In all his travels, Collins has always carried a soft spot for the history and culture of Kern County. When Collins moved to Bakersfield, he bought a 1918 Craftsman house in the historic Oleander neighborhood, and settled into the community with his wife, Leigh, and their then-8-year-old daughter, Isabel. On the drive west from Louisiana, he contemplated the trip his parents took (separately, they had not yet met) long ago when they headed west from Oklahoma and the Missouri Ozarks during the Dust Bowl to work as migrant farm laborers in California. His parents married in Fresno in 1938.

“My father had a sixth-grade education, while my mother had an eighth-grade education. They would sometimes talk about educated fools, and I guess I have become one. They lived ‘The Grapes of Wrath.’ I remember my mother saying that they used to lie in bed and read to each other, and the only two books they mentioned were ‘Gone with the Wind’ and ‘The Grapes of Wrath.’ And when the movie ‘The Grapes of Wrath’ came on TV, they would say, ‘That was old so-and-so’s place! We worked there,’ as if it was a documentary,” Collins said.

Knowing that the 75th anniversary of the publication of “The Grapes of Wrath” would be in 2014, one of the first ideas Collins set into motion was for a year-long celebration of John Steinbeck’s famous work of fiction that was based on the lives of Dust Bowl immigrants here in Kern County. The interdisciplinary series of events will kick off with a showing of John Ford’s film version of the novel, followed by musical and theatrical performances, a photography exhibit, a mural project, lectures by authors and scholars, and much more.

“This year-long event will build connections within the university, as well as provide outreach in the community,” Kohl said.

By both celebrating Kern County’s history and bringing new cultural experiences to the community, CSUB contributes to the “cultural economy” of the area, Collins said. He looks forward to implementing new programs such as a popular music festival to reach the next generation of local culture-makers.

Roopa Davé Q&A

Alumni Relations Director



1. What's your first order of business as the new Alumni Relations Director?

My first order of business is to focus on defining engagement and what engagement means to our alumni and to our graduating students. The university already provides numerous events which provide our alumni opportunities to come together such as the Alumni Hall of Fame as well as Party in the Park to name a few. I will work to expand the opportunities for our alumni to be engaged with our current students as well as the campus by working with the Alumni Board, the campus community, and the wider community. Further, I would like to expand the engagement of our current students with the Alumni Relations Office in order to ensure their continued engagement after graduation.

2. What's your professional background?

I earned my Master's degree in Public Administration from CSUB. I am currently pursuing an Ed.D. which is a joint collaboration between Fresno State and CSUB.

3. What's got you most excited about this role?

I am most excited about the vision and mission the Vice President for University Advancement has for the Division and the Alumni Relations office. I am eager to be a part of the change and hope to use my knowledge, skills, and experience to take the Alumni Relations Office to the next level. In addition, this position provides me with an opportunity to give back to the community and the campus as an alumnus.

4. What can people look forward to in the coming months from Alumni Relations?

In the coming months, Alumni Relations will be conducting an online survey of its alumni. The responses from the survey will enable the office to understand the perceptions and needs of its alumni and help shape the direction of the Alumni Relations Office. Alumni Relations will also be working closely with the Alumni Board in finalizing an Alumni Compact which defines the commitment of CSUB to its alumni.

5. What do you hope to accomplish in your new role?

The Alumni Relations office has created great traditions with its alumni. I would like to use the existing resources and strengths to further define the various engagement opportunities of our alumni with the CSUB community. I

believe it is important to create programs for our current students such as a student ambassadors program or a mentoring program to enable students to build networking skills that will assist them upon graduation from the university. The earlier we get students engaged with the Alumni Relations Office, the stronger we can expect their engagement to be with the university upon graduation. In addition, I will be working closely with the Alumni Board to further the mission and vision of the board in relation to the campus community, other alumni, and the community in general.

6. Both the new Vice President for University Advancement, David Melendez, and the new Vice President for Student Affairs, Thomas Wallace, are interested in reaching out to and engaging more alumni with CSUB. How is the Alumni Association involved in these initiatives?

The Alumni Association is currently involved with engagement initiatives such as the Party in the Park, Alumni Hall of Fame, and Celebrate CSUB. The Alumni Association is looking into other strategies to connect, communicate, and engage with CSUB alumni. We hope that the upcoming survey will provide us with valuable feedback to help shape our strategy in the future. CSU Bakersfield has experienced tremendous growth over the past few years and I believe the opportunities for our current and future alumni abound. I hope to work closely with both divisions in order to achieve the goals set forth by the two Vice Presidents.

7. What are the benefits of being a member of the Alumni Association?

The current benefits of being in the Alumni Association, above and beyond the career connections and networking opportunities at our Alumni events, include discounts at the Runner Bookstore, discount for using the Student Recreation Center, use of the Walter Stiern library, help with resume writing, mock interviews through the Community Engagement and Career Education (CECE) department, and invitations for networking and other career building events among many others. Working with the appropriate campus administrators, faculty, and the student body government, I hope to continue to increase the benefits for our alumni as CSUB continues to be their university after graduation. CSUB Alumni, it'll always be "Your university!"

biolo



husband and wife research team

gy

Dr. Anna Jacobsen and Dr. Brandon Pratt

They say opposites attract – but in the case of Drs. Anna Jacobsen and Brandon Pratt, it's their shared interest in plant science that brought them together.

The husband-and-wife research team has been teaching and mentoring students in the CSUB Department of Biology for seven years. In that time, they've published several studies and presented at numerous conferences.

Recently, their collaboration increased from two to 24. The biology professors are co-authors on the first meta-analysis of the vulnerability of trees to drought. It's called a meta-analysis because 24 academic scientists pooled data collected in previous studies from 81 locations around the world for this new global study.

What they found was that no matter how much rainfall a region receives, the trees there are susceptible to decreases in precipitation – making the world's forests equally vulnerable to drought whether they're in the tropics or the desert. The results were published in the Nov. 29, 2012 issue of the journal *Nature*.

"Through the international collaboration, we found that most woody forest species operate very close to their hydraulic limits," Jacobsen said. "This explains, in part, why recent drought-induced forest decline has occurred in both arid regions and also in wet forests not normally considered at drought risk. Thus, forest systems, regardless of their current climate, do not appear to be well buffered against future change."

For this study, Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt provided about 10 percent of the data from their research in South Africa and California over the past 10 years. Dr. Jacobsen supplied some of the data she collected in South Africa in 2004 while conducting research funded by a Fulbright Fellowship and National Science Foundation Grant. More recently, Dr. Pratt also conducted research in Africa on a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

For the California data, Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt collected samples from wooded areas around the state. In a biology lab at CSUB, they cut the samples underwater and used a tubing system to measure how much water the xylem tissue in the stem could transport. They then spun the samples in a custom-built centrifuge to induce water stress and measure the drought response.

The study blended each of their areas of specialization. Dr. Jacobsen studies plant anatomy, such as the cells, organs and tissues that make up the plant, and Dr. Pratt studies plant physiology, or how plants use and store water and energy. In other words, she studies form and he studies function. Together, their research creates the whole picture of how a plant's vascular system works.

"One of the fundamental messages we teach our students is that structure and function are interrelated," Pratt said. "So there's all kinds of fertile ground for Anna and I to collaborate on."

Their collaboration began in 2002 when they met in a biology lab at Pepperdine University. Dr. Pratt was a post-doctoral scholar working with Dr. Steve Davis on the drought tolerance of seedlings in California native shrubs. Dr. Jacobsen was working on the vascular physiology of Southern California shrubs.

"So we both were working on different projects but we started collaborating with each other almost instantly," Pratt said.

When Pratt was hired at CSUB in 2005, Jacobsen was working on her

see **JACOBSON/PRATT** page **10**

Mentoring students in the CSUB Department of Biology for **seven years**



“Both professors have a strong research program that involves both undergraduate and graduate students.”

– Dr. Todd McBride
Biology Department Chair

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Ph.D. in Michigan but doing most of her research in California. They married that year, and the following year Jacobsen joined Pratt part-time at CSUB. She was hired fulltime as an assistant professor at CSUB in 2010.

Locally, their research aids in understanding changes to Southern California native species as well as agricultural and landscape management – especially as periods of drought become more frequent and severe.

“Both Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt are engaged in state-of-the-art research that exemplifies the new direction the NSME faculty members are taking,” said Dr. Julio Blanco, Dean of the School of Natural Science, Mathematics and Engineering. “Kern County and its agricultural enterprise are concerned with water availability. Understanding how plants consume water at a fundamental level will benefit our region.”

Students in the Department of Biology are doing groundbreaking research in this field under the mentorship of Drs. Jacobsen and Pratt. One master's student, Evan McKinnon, is working to understand the physiological traits that enable native plants to thrive in weed-infested landscapes in the hopes of efficiently restoring local wildlands with the most effective native species. Aaron Ramirez, an alumnus who is now in a Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley, published a study as an undergraduate at CSUB examining how deer affect the response of shrubs after wildfires on Catalina Island.

“Both professors have a strong research program that involves both undergraduate and graduate students,” said Dr. Todd McBride, Biology Department Chair. “Both have been able to secure funding for their research with Dr. Pratt receiving a very competitive and prestigious five-year award from the National Science Foundation. This award has allowed him to bring in equipment and technology found at major research universities. Students gain excellent experience at conducting research that is not available at most universities the size of CSUB.”

The professors say that it's the goal of the entire Department of Biology to encourage and support students in participating in research that will help them move on to graduate and Ph.D. programs and successful careers, be them academic or in the private sector. They also have the opportunity to develop close relationships with their students as they hike, camp, and travel around Southern California collecting samples to take back to the labs at CSUB.

Being a part of the global study that recently appeared in the journal *Nature* just adds to the experiences that Jacobsen and Pratt are able to share with their students. “It's nice to zoom out to the bigger picture, and look at this pattern globally, and see what my students are learning here at CSUB is information that applies to plant species that are around the world,” Jacobsen said. “It's nice to know that what you're working on has these large-scale applications that not only involve Bakersfield or California or Mediterranean climates, but all ecosystems.”



Party in the PARK

TASTING & AUCTION



CSU Bakersfield

Beer and Wine

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Proceeds benefiting the Alumni Scholarship Fund



Sensational Sophomores



“This is a group of students who model leadership and success.”

In recent years, much emphasis has been placed on implementing programs to connect freshmen to CSUB in order to engage – and retain – them as students. But what happens once they reach their sophomore year?

This year, the Division of Student Affairs has launched Sensational Sophomores, a volunteer program that honors second-year students with a 3.0 GPA and higher. So far about 40 students have accepted the invitation to join, according to Emily Poole, Assistant Director of Campus Programming.

The students provide volunteer support at campus events, give campus tours, provide community service, and develop leadership skills. They also model success for freshmen students who want to strive to become Sensational Sophomores themselves.

The Sensational Sophomores were first introduced at New Student Convocation, where they helped pin gold pins on the freshmen, welcoming them to CSUB just one year after they themselves were welcomed.

“This is a group of students who model leadership and success,” Poole said.

Savannah Andrews is one of those students. After completing the year-long First-Year Experience program for freshmen, she joined Sensational Sophomores in order to continue feeling engaged with CSUB.

“I thought that joining it would make me be more open to going out, doing more things, and joining more clubs. Plus I would get to know people who are involved with community service,” Andrews said.

So far, being a Sensational Sophomore is meeting her expectation. Through the program, she has volunteered at several community walks and she picks up trash on campus cleanup days. She has also made connections on campus that have led to her taking on new leadership positions. She recently joined Associated Students, Inc. as a member of the programming board, and she is working with the CSUB Counseling Center to create a program for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence. Andrews is a double major in communications and psychology and plans to be a victim's advocate and to speak out against sexual violence in her future career.

Dr. Thomas Wallace, Vice President for Student Affairs, says the Sensational Sophomores program is important for recognizing academic achievement as well as continuing to engage students past their freshmen year.

“This gives them an incentive to do well academically,” he said. “They came here to get a quality education and to complete their degree. That’s where the focus is going – to add to the quality of the student experience while they’re here.”

CSUB joins WAC

“This is a ground-breaking move.”



CSUB Director of Athletics Jeff Konya

It was with much fanfare and excitement that in October President Dr. Horace Mitchell, along with Western Athletic Conference Commissioner Jeff Hurd, announced on that CSU Bakersfield accepted a formal invitation to join the Western Athletic Conference as an all-sports member, effective July 1, 2013.

“I want to thank my colleague presidents and chancellors in the Western Athletic Conference for extending this invitation of membership to CSU Bakersfield. We are very pleased to accept it,” Mitchell said. “The University, our students, student-athletes and our community see this conference affiliation as further solidifying our status in NCAA Division I. I have spoken to each of the WAC CEOs over the past few weeks and they expect CSUB to be an integral part of the WAC’s future success. That is our expectation as well. This is a great day for the University and our athletics program.”

The Western Athletic Conference is in its 50th year of existence after establishment in 1962. During their tenure in Division I

Athletics, the conference has been host to institutions in 13 different states providing its student-athletes the chance to travel to scenic destinations and gain exposure in some of the nation’s most diverse markets. In addition, the WAC’s student-athletes work to achieve the highest levels of success with the academic support of their respective institutions.

CSU Bakersfield joined Utah Valley University in the first phase of expansion for the conference while Chicago State and Texas-Pan American were added even more recently along with CSUB’s former Division II conference mate Grand Canyon University. Next season the Western Athletic Conference will include CSUB, Utah Valley, Grand Canyon, Texas-Pan American along with current members Idaho, New Mexico State and Seattle University as core members of the WAC.

“This is a ground-breaking move,” said CSUB Director of Athletics Jeff Konya. “We have been working towards this end and we are grateful for this opportunity to compete as a

full member of the Western Athletic Conference beginning in 2013. We now have the opportunity to compete for conference titles and most importantly take advantage of the automatic qualifier status and allow our student-athletes to compete on an equal level for participation in their respective NCAA Championships.”

With the all-sports agreement, at least 13 of CSUB’s 18 teams will become members of the conference; most notably, men’s and women’s basketball, women’s soccer and volleyball, all of which were the lone remaining teams playing as NCAA Division I Independents. In addition, men’s and women’s golf along with track and field programs will begin their affiliations in the Fall of 2013.

This landmark announcement for CSU Bakersfield Athletics gives all Roadrunner teams access to conference resources, scheduling, conference tournaments when applicable and the automatic qualifier spots for NCAA Championships, making it easier for CSUB teams to qualify for the NCAA postseason.

“Both CSU Bakersfield and Utah Valley are quality institutions and bring high level competitive and academic qualities to the 2013-14 membership,” Commissioner Hurd said. “We are excited to begin the process of rebuilding the WAC and will continue to work to reestablish the league as one of the top Division I conferences in the West.”

Go Runners!

CSU Bakersfield Announced Tuition Reduction With Passage of Proposition 30

As a result of the November elections, CSUB avoided a \$4.1 million mid-year budget cut after voters' approval of Proposition 30, and rescinded the \$166 per quarter tuition fee increase put in place as a precautionary measure. With the passage of Proposition 30, the CSU system's overall state budget will essentially remain flat for the remainder of this fiscal year, but state funding for the system is still approximately \$1 billion less than several years ago.

"The passage of Prop 30 will help to stabilize our budget in an era of massive state government cuts to education. While it will not provide any new funding for the CSU, it will prevent an additional 'trigger cut' of \$250 million in January," said President Dr. Horace Mitchell. He continued, "CSU Bakersfield is committed to being a driver of California's economic future by preparing the well-educated work force needed for its recovery and development. The long-term benefits can only be realized if education remains a high priority. I am hopeful that this heralds the beginning of the state's willingness to once again invest in public education at all levels, including higher education."

The CSU Board of Trustees had previously approved a contingency plan to rescind a \$166 per quarter tuition fee increase that took effect for the fall 2012 term. Annual tuition fees for full-time undergraduate students will now revert back to \$5,472 – the same rate as in the 2011-2012 academic year. Students will either be credited, refunded or receive a reconfigured financial aid package to account for the revised tuition fee rates. However, refunding the student fees will mean a reduction of \$132 million in the CSU budget and approximately \$2.6 million in the CSUB budget for the current year.



"CSU Bakersfield is committed to being a driver of California's economic future by preparing the well-educated work force needed for its recovery and development."

At CSU Bakersfield, enrollment for new students seeking admission is expected to see a slight increase for the 2013-2014 academic year. The CSU system had held applications from new students pending the outcome of Proposition 30, which has a direct impact on funded enrollment targets.



Residential life is alive and well on the CSUB campus,

CSU Bakersfield Announces New Student Housing

Not only the students, but also the community at large, were excited to hear that this fall the California State University Board of Trustees met and passed a resolution to approve plans for the new student housing complex at CSU Bakersfield.

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

“This complex will be an impressive addition to an already beautiful campus,” said Crystal Becks, Housing Director. She went on to say, “Contrary to

what is so commonly heard, CSUB isn’t a ‘commuter school’. Students are the center of everything we do and this exciting new student housing project speaks directly to our dedication to providing students the best in all things related to education.”

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

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

study while providing residents with active outdoor areas for recreation.

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

At CSUB, responsible resource stewardship and environmental sustainability are of particular concern and interest. With that directive, special attention is being given to sustainability in this project as it incorporates several features that promote energy conservation and sustainable building practices. The building will be designed to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold equivalency. It will incorporate

ASI Holds Fundraiser and Art Auction Benefiting the Children’s Center

Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) hosted its first fundraiser for the CSUB Children’s Center. The art exhibit, titled “Images from the Heart”, featured 30 CSUB student paintings. The paintings were silently auctioned the day of the event

and all proceeds benefited the CSUB Children’s Center.

“We challenged the students to transform the paintings of children from the Children’s Center into an art piece of their own. Part of the challenge was

that the artist had to maintain the child’s exact shapes in their new creation,” said Hernan Hernandez, President, ASI.

Students from all across campus were invited to create art to be featured in the show. Most pieces that were selected to be included are works from art students and



Small Business Development Center gains new leadership

In July San Joaquin native Kelly Bearden came on board as the director of the CSUB Small Business Development Center serving Kern, Inyo and Mono counties.



The CSUB SBDC operates under the UC Merced SBDC Regional Network in Central California. As part of a national network of centers established by the U.S. Small Business Administration, the SBDC provides assistance to small businesses looking to start or expand their operations. The job creation and retention program assists business owners and entrepreneurs with business plans, loan proposals, financial systems, technology needs assessments, and international trade and procurement. In addition to free one-on-one business consulting, the management team offers a variety of workshops and seminars.

Since CSUB became host of the SBDC in October 2010, more than \$33.6 million in capital infusion has been generated in its coverage area, helping with the creation of 104 businesses and 950 jobs.

Over the past 25 years, Bearden has worked with thousands of small business owners as an advisor and consultant. For 15 years, he worked with the Stanislaus County Economic Development Corporation, with 12 of those years spent as director of the four-county Valley Sierra SBDC. More recently, he has worked as an independent economic consultant and as lead business advisor with the CSU Monterey Bay SBDC. There, his responsibilities included managing and providing consulting services for small businesses and technology-based start-ups, developing relationships with financial institutions, and implementing training calendars for consultants and small business owners.

“CSUB has a demonstrated commitment to the business community of Kern County where there is a focus on creating jobs and assisting entrepreneurs,” Bearden said. “I want to continue to build on the successes the CSUB SBDC has enjoyed and expand our high quality consulting team and seminars. We want to be a partner in the region’s creative and unique economic development.”

Bearden has a degree in Business Administration – Finance from CSU Chico. He farms wine grapes in the Sierra Nevada foothill region of California and runs the nonprofit Fire Safe Council in the same area. Bearden began the post on July 2.

Complex

operable windows that maximize light and ventilation. High performance glazing, along with sun shades, will help reduce the solar heat gain that’s so prevalent in Bakersfield summers. Likewise, bathrooms will incorporate low-flush toilets and solar hot water panels on the roof will reduce annual energy costs. Similarly, energy-efficient light fixtures and controls designed to reduce energy costs for lighting will be utilized throughout the complex.

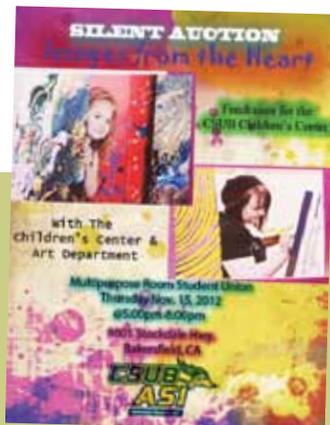
Estimated timing for the project, barring unforeseen delays, includes completion of preliminary plans in March 2013, completion of working drawings in October 2013. Construction will begin in November 2013 and occupancy is set to start in February 2015.

art majors studying at CSUB.

“Our center directly serves CSUB student-parents with the mission to support their education and ultimate degree. To be supported, in turn, by ASI and this auction and fundraiser is a wonderful example of campus-wide cooperation and symbiotic partnerships in the quest for

excellence,” added Gladys Garcia, Director of the Children’s Center.

During the show, the original child’s drawing was displayed along side the artist’s new rendition. The show was considered a smashing success with 90% of paintings sold. If you want to purchase a painting, you’re in luck, but



there are a very few left. Act fast and contact Gladys Garcia at 661-654-3485.

CSUB honored as Corporate Partner of the Year by Bakersfield Memorial Hospital

Bakersfield Memorial Hospital designated California State University, Bakersfield as its Corporate Partner of the Year for 2012 in recognition of two student-led initiatives that raised \$11,000 for the hospital's pediatric center this year. Students at CSUB held a 12-hour dance marathon in May and a 12-hour video game marathon in October, both of which exceeded sponsorship goals.

The funds go directly to the hospital for purchasing specialty equipment for its Lauren Small Children's Medical Center. The hospital is a member of the Children's Miracle Network, which supports children's hospitals in providing acute care in their communities.

"I can't express enough the impact that CSUB students are making," said Lourdes Nilon, manager of the Children's Miracle Network Program at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital. "The corporate partner of the year demonstrates innovation, passion, commitment and sacrifice, and that's what I witnessed first-hand. These fundraisers were organized on the students'

own time, despite classes and finals. They worked so hard, and several of them have volunteered to help me with other events as well."

"We are pleased to see our students recognized for their contributions to the local community. This is just another example of the many things they do to make Bakersfield a better place to work and live," said Dr. Thomas Wallace, Vice President for Student Affairs at CSUB.

For each fundraiser, CSUB students contacted Bakersfield Memorial Hospital independently after hearing about similar events at other universities. For student Hilda Nieblas, a dance marathon sounded like a lot of fun for a very worthy cause. She went through the steps to establish a Dance Marathon club at CSUB to recruit volunteers and obtain donations and sponsorships. The event was held in the Student Union, where 250 participants had to stay on their feet for 12 hours, dancing, playing games, and doing other activities. They exceeded their goal of \$5,000 and raised more than \$6,500.

"The concept is that you are dancing for those who can't," said Nieblas, who is working on her Master of Public Administration at CSUB. "What was really important to me to bring this program to CSUB is that all the money that is raised stays locally. The fact that you could teach students that they could do something for their community but have fun at the same time."

For Ed Webb, founder of the Campus Gamers club at CSUB, the gaming marathon offered students a way to use their passion for charity. While participation in the "Extra Life" gaming marathon is usually done on an individual basis, the CSUB club turned it into a campus event inside the Student Union, with students donating use of their gaming equipment and companies donating items for a silent auction. The club exceeded its goal of \$3,000 and raised \$4,300.

Both student clubs plan to expand their events to raise even more money for the children's hospital in 2013.



\$11,000 raised for the pediatric center



"Gordon Callison was a very good and honorable man."

—Ken Secor



Memorial gets much-needed makeover

When Gordon Callison arrived in Bakersfield in 1967 as the first business manager of what was then California State College Bakersfield (CSB), he was tasked with helping to create a college from scratch. So it was fitting that after his retirement and subsequent death in the 1980s, his family and co-workers dedicated a memorial to him on the campus he helped to create.

Located in front of what is now the Office of Student Affairs, the shaded area featured a bench and low seating walls, along with a fountain surrounded by cobblestones. The memorial, as Callison's widow said at the time, "exemplifies life and renewal and beauty, as well as a setting for peaceful enjoyment and reflection."

But 25 years after the initial dedication, the memorial was in need of a makeover. Callison's son, architect Rick Callison, knew the fountain equipment was beyond repair. So he came up with a new idea for the concrete bowl: fill it in with soil and colorful plantings.

The memorial has now taken on a different form, yet still with the same goal: "To provide a cozy and comfortable spot in the midst of the large campus," said Rick, who donated an endowment

to upgrade and maintain the memorial with a regular rotation of colorful plantings.

In June 2012, Rick returned to the spot where he had spoken on his father's behalf 25 years earlier for a re-dedication of the Gordon M. Callison Memorial. Also in attendance again was Ken Secor, the first vice president of administrative services of CSB, who worked alongside Callison to build the college literally from the ground up.

The two became close friends as the first colleagues working for CSB president Paul F. Romberg. From rented offices on California Avenue, they set up headquarters to design the physical layout of the college campus as well as the budget and financial operations. Callison's 27-year career in the U.S. Navy and business degrees from UC Berkeley and Georgetown University enabled him to meet the latter challenges.

"Gordon Callison was a very good and honorable man, and he made many contributions to this campus during a critical period in its development," Secor said at the recent dedication. "I am delighted to see those contributions recognized by the re-birth of this memorial."

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Corsons share blessings with scholarship endowment

Rev. John and Sylvia Corson have everything they need in life. So when John thought about what to do for his wife's milestone 75th birthday, he decided to honor her in an extra-special way. He secretly worked with a development officer at his wife's alma mater, California State University, Bakersfield, to establish the Sylvia Bradbury Corson Scholarship Endowment. Then he asked family and friends to pitch in to the fund.

"There is no piece of jewelry that would last and endure and have as much meaning as a scholarship for students," said John. "She had a marvelous experience at Cal State when she got her master's. It seems an appropriate way to recognize her, her life, her achievements, and to give back to others."

John surprised Sylvia with the gift by taking her to the local ice cream shop Dewar's for an afternoon birthday treat. When

they arrived, a small contingent from CSUB waited inside to surprise her with blue and gold cupcakes, flowers, and a gift-wrapped box containing the endowment agreement. Sylvia was astounded.

"I just started crying because my family and friends mean so much and to think they would do this for me, this was just an overwhelming, touching, meaningful thing for my life," Sylvia said

She also was appreciative of her guests: her mentor at CSUB, psychology professor Dr. Kathy Ritter, the dean of the School of Social Sciences and Education, Dr. Kathleen Knutzen, and the CSUB development officer who worked with Rev. Corson to establish the endowment, Patty Keefer.

Sylvia earned a master's degree in counseling from CSUB in 1980 and worked for many years as a marriage and family therapist. As per her intent, the

scholarship will be awarded to majors in social sciences and education with an interest in social services or counseling.

The scholarship endowment was started with just \$5,000 raised from more than 50 donations from family and friends – which shows that every gift matters, large and small. As the endowment grows, the investment earnings will be used to award the scholarship. The Corsons plan to continue giving toward the endowment to increase the amount awarded to students each year.

"It's planting a seed that we want to see grow," John said. "It's more fun to see our gifts at work now rather than to wait until we die. This gives us a commitment, a reminder that we want to see this grow."

To discuss setting up a scholarship or program endowment at CSUB, contact University Advancement at 661-654-2136.