



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON™

Center for Scholars

**Guardian Scholars
Newsletter**

Director's Message

Welcome to our Guardian Scholars newsletter. Our goal is to share our story with you and highlight the achievements of scholars. You play a critical role in the success of our scholars through time, talent and scholarship support. How is this accomplished? Through student-centered services and resources we are able to provide our scholars the opportunity to become thriving CSUF Titans.

Our hope is that this newsletter will provide us the opportunity share with you that impact you are having on the lives of our scholars. It is partners and donors, such as yourselves that help our Scholars Reach Higher!

- Deanna Merino-Contino
Director, Center for Scholars

Highlights of the Program

- **Supporting More Foster Youth:** Spring 2017 40 additional foster youth are receiving support services.
- **New Class Level Seminars & Senior Year Coaching:** Beginning fall 2017 all students will be participating in a class level seminar where they will gain life skills, learn about various careers and prepare for graduation.
- **Family FUNDamentals Project:** Beginning fall 2017 students will take leadership in planning their community building activities for the year.
- **New Foster Friendly Ally Training for CSUF Faculty and Staff:** The training consists of discussions about the unique experiences in foster care, impact of trauma and resources available through the Guardian Scholars program.
- **New Center for Scholars:** A beautiful new center for students is scheduled to open later this

Scholar Snapshot

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| ⇒ Total Guardian Scholars: 47 | ⇒ Freshman: 9 |
| ⇒ New Incoming Freshman: 4 | ⇒ Sophomores: 7 |
| ⇒ New Incoming/Community College Transfers: 6 | ⇒ Juniors: 21 |
| ⇒ New Continuing Students: 5 | ⇒ Seniors: 10 |

Major Breakdown

- ⇒ College of the Arts: 3
- ⇒ College of Communications: 6
- ⇒ College of Engineering and Computer Science: 2
- ⇒ College of Natural Science and Mathematics: 1
- ⇒ College of Health and Human Development: 13
- ⇒ College of Humanities and Social Sciences: 1
- ⇒ Mihaylo College of Business and Economics: 7
- ⇒ Undeclared: 3



Scholar Spotlight

Annmarie Herrera, Junior, Nursing

CSUF student: Boot camp for nursing students builds bonds and knowledge

By Annmarie Herrera, Guardian Scholar

“Beginning a new school or program can be very intimidating and nerve-racking. Nursing school brings with it the excitement of finally coming into a program where the end is near to have “RN” after your name, but worry as you wonder how you will do in such an elite, well-known nursing program as Cal State Fullerton’s School of Nursing. When I was admitted to the program, I was full of emotions wondering how I would ever get through three years of school that would challenge me every day. I feared nursing exams where every answer is right, but which one is the best answer out of all of them? Now starting my second year in the program, I am also the new president of the Nursing Student Association (NSA). I never thought I would one day lead an organization, but here I am, getting my feet wet with leadership experience. Being a leader in itself is definitely a rewarding experience that I could never have imagined having, as I dealt with such past barriers as the foster care system and at a younger age being told I wouldn’t go anywhere. By getting involved in the NSA club on campus, I grew to love what this organization is all about, making me want to be a leader for the club, passionate about an organization that helps student nurses grow and become successful. A quote that I love by is “if you truly love something, you’ll make time for it.”

For more on this story please go to <http://www.ocregister.com/2017/08/15/cal-state-fullerton-student-boot-camp-for-nursing-students-builds-bonds-knowledge/>

Scholar Spotlight

Jordan Sosa, Senior

CSUF student: Reconnects with heritage through education, art

By Chris Haire, writer for the Orange County Register

It was a journey to reconnect with his heritage, an homage to troubled parents – and, for the first time, the chance to share his cultural and personal experiences through art.

For Cal State Fullerton student Jordan Sosa, a recent two-week trip to Mexico, during which he and others helped third-graders create a mural, was a defining moment in his academic career.

“The trip meant everything to me,” said Sosa, 22, a fourth-year business administration major graduating next year. “Talking to those students was like talking to myself or my siblings.”

In January, 21 students, faculty and administrators from different disciplines visited Mexico City and Guanajuato to learn about Mexican culture, history and art – primarily muralism – and visit with students in the small town of Ojos de Agua. The CSUF visitors helped the students create their own individual pieces of art on canvas, which were then combined and put on a wall as a mural. The project was called “Walls That Unite.”

And then, the children took them on a tour of their town: visiting local points of interests, talking to a third-grader’s grandmother, eating pozole and being feted by the local mayor.



When the Cal State Fullerton group returned to the United States, members drew on the trip for inspiration in creating their own small works of art, which hang in the gallery in the Student Union.

Sosa, who grew up in foster care because his undocumented parents’ health struggles, used acrylic paint to re-enact a scene from the trip that spoke to him: The trip’s advisor, art teacher Rose Adams, giving advice to a group of local children.

For more information on this story, please visit: <http://www.ocregister.com/2017/03/20/csuf-student-reconnects-with-heritage-through-education-art/>

Summer Experience

Expanding the reach of its nationally recognized Guardian Scholars program, this fall Cal State Fullerton is providing support to an additional 50 foster youth and offering a new ally training for faculty and staff. "After researching the CSUF foster youth population who were not in the Guardian Scholars program, we learned that many were struggling to succeed in college," said Yajayra Tovar, assistant director of the Center for Scholars.

The 40 foster youth will join the University's current cohort of 47 Guardian Scholars in receiving a variety of support services, with the exception of a full scholarship, such as life-skills workshops, community enrichment activities, counseling, and access to a student lounge and computer lab.



In addition, 23 incoming students from the two groups had the opportunity to participate in a July 19-21 Guardian Scholars Summer Experience. Easing the transition from foster care to college, activities included a student panel, self-identity workshop and introduction to campus resources. The orientation also featured a presentation of gifts from several community partners — Orangewood Foundation, OC United, Together We Rise, and Bed Bath and Beyond —



including bedding, pillows, linen, towels, clothes hangers, hampers, bikes, bike locks, water bottles and gift cards.

"Basically the community came together to ensure that these students will have a positive experience as they transition into CSUF," said Tovar. "The immense amount of support they have already received, and will continue to receive, is critical as they begin their academic and life journey at CSUF."



Fall Calendar

GS Summer Experience	July 19-21, 2017
GS Retreat	August 12-14, 2017
Freshman Seminar (1 st meeting)	August 31, 2017
GS Monthly Meeting (1 st meeting)	September 12, 2017
Sophomore Seminar (1 st meeting)	September 19, 2017
Concert Under the Stars	September 23, 2017
Junior Seminar (1 st meeting)	September 26, 2017
Welcome Dinner - The Summit House	September, 27, 2017
Senior Coaching	September 2017 – May 2018
College Prep Day	October 28, 2017
Larry Junies Show	November 6, 2017
Friendsgiving Banquet	November 16, 2017
Boerner Holiday Party	December 7, 2017
Donahue Schriber Holiday Lunch	December 15, 2017





Donor Spotlight

Allen Boerner is a true example of the word “guardian” and for over 20 years he has been a principal steward of CSUF’s Guardian Scholars program. Allen first learned of the Guardian Scholars program after attending the program’s first graduation. He was so touched and impressed with the perseverance and dedication exhibited by the students to reach their dream of a college degree, he pledged to get involved with the program. Since 1999 Allen and his company, Granite Investment Group, have been staunch supporters of the Guardian Scholars program. In addition to annual scholarship support, Allen hosts two major events which have become annual traditions for alumni and current students. The first event is held during the summer when he charts a yacht for a harbor cruise around Newport Beach and for the holidays, he hosts a party for all Guardian Scholars and supporters. As fun as both of those events are, they represent a small fraction of the type of support Allen Boerner provides for our students. His passion for mentoring and both what it means to him and what effects he has seen it have on others keeps his Rolodex filled with Guardian Scholars who remain in contact with him long after graduation. Allen is convinced that working together in partnership with CSUF and the Guardian Scholars will bring success not only to the students but to the community as well.

We salute Allen and his commitment to the Guardian Scholars program.

Off Campus Partnership Spotlight

Orangewood Foundation

Orangewood has been an important part of the Guardian Scholars program development. Orangewood along with donors and University support assisted the Guardian Scholars program in developing programs, support and resources for foster youth at CSUF. We are incredibly grateful for their support and continued partnership. The Orangewood Foundation helps current and former foster youth by providing guidance and services to prepare them for a self-sufficient adulthood. Orangewood’s mission is to prepare foster and community youth to reach their greatest potential. They help almost 2,000 foster and community youth annually prepare for independent adulthood.

The Guardian Scholars took on the Orangewood Adventure Challenge, an exciting, demanding, and fun multi-sport team-based adventure race that test the boundaries of both the body and brain. The Guardian Scholars worked together to navigate through the course’s challenges such as running, mountain biking, and kayaking through out the beautiful Catalina Island.

The Orangewood Adventure Challenge goal was to raise funds for college scholarships for former foster youth.

Learn more here:

- orangewoodadventurechallenge.org
- orangewoodfoundation.org



Program Contacts

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