Men’s Basketball Excels On and Off the Court

Mel Franks
Associate Athletics Director/ Media Relations
Athletics
Photos Credit: Matt Brown

In his six seasons at Cal State Fullerton, Coach Bob Burton has restored pride in the men’s basketball program. The Titans have been winning games (107-77 record including a Big West Conference Championship, an NCAA Tournament appearance and a pair of post-season NIT victories) and winning fans with an exciting, up-tempo style of play. They have been in the national top 20 in scoring offense in three of the last four years and recent point guards Bobby Brown and Josh Akognon (twice) have been among the top 33 individual scorers. The Titans and the 3-point field goal have gone hand-in-hand.

But arguably the more impressive statistics have come in the classroom. After years of disappointing graduation rates, the Titan program, with the great support of Dr. Meredith Basil and her staff in Athletics Academic Services, now treats degrees as common place. From just the last two seasons, 10 players - the equivalent of a two-deep lineup - have received bachelors degrees. That doesn’t include former San Antonio Spurs’ forward Bruce Bowen, who returned 15 years after his Titan

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A Few Words
Message from Robert L. Palmer, Vice President for Student Affairs

Articles in this edition of the newsletter provide information about several of the recent programs and activities provided by the Division of Student Affairs which contribute to the comprehensive educational experience of students at Cal State Fullerton.

In this edition of Spotlight, you will find reflections from three of seven Cal State Fullerton students who recently completed study abroad experiences in India, Denmark and Japan. Recipients of the Gilman International Scholarship, a program that offers grants for U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad, were awarded an average of $4,000 to make their study abroad dream a reality. Also in this edition you will learn about an initiative in the Career Center designed to focus students’ efforts on committing time toward gaining lifelong career skills. The University-wide campaign, TAKE FIVE, was designed in part as a response to the historically challenging job market facing today’s graduates. You will also see highlights of a joint effort between the college-based Assistant Deans for Student Affairs and Freshman Programs. The joint effort provided an interactive event for students currently undecided on a major. The success of the men’s basketball team both on and off the court is underscored by the graduation of 10 players – the equivalent of a two-deep lineup – over the past two seasons.

Students are at the forefront of Cal State Fullerton. Recent initiatives aimed at supporting student success and learning includes the creation of a new DVD released by Judicial Affairs in the Dean of Students Office in partnership with the College of Communications. The DVD is designed to assist faculty members in addressing inappropriate student behavior in the classroom. If addressed proactively, disruptive behavior is less likely to escalate and have a negative impact on the classroom environment. Through the use of technology, the division recently implemented a web-based system for students to access and track curricular training, workshops, events and other learning opportunities. Under the leadership of the Director of Technology Services for Student Affairs, LearnerWeb was implemented and piloted during fall 2008 with the Student Leadership Institute, an award-winning leadership certificate program in the Dean of Students Office. LearnerWeb has been very successful and its use is expanding across the division.

As we near the end of the 2009 calendar year, I would like to congratulate all of the members of the Student Affairs family for their accomplishments during the past year. It is your hard work that ensures the quality of life for all students at Cal State Fullerton.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Palmer, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
California State University, Fullerton

STUDENT AFFAIRS Mission Statement

Student Affairs enhances and supports the academic mission of the University. The Student Affairs mission encompasses the dual paradigms of student development and student services and includes building alliances between the classroom and other aspects of campus life. As a partner in the educational enterprise, Student Affairs contributes to the comprehensive educational experience of students. Through myriad services, programs and activities, the intellectual, vocational, personal, social and cultural development of all students is encouraged. Through these programs and services, students are assisted in acquiring the knowledge, skills and insights that facilitate life-long learning, a sense of personal and interpersonal competence and human understanding.

As a resource for students, administration, faculty, staff, alumni and the broader community, Student Affairs provides a wide variety of university services. These services meet the needs of students as they progress through their college experience and also include problem solving, research assistance and consultation. With a diverse and comprehensive set of responsibilities, Student Affairs contributes to the campus community a special perspective about students, their experience, and the campus environment.  

Photo Credit: Kelly Lacefield
Scholarship Provides Study Abroad Experiences

Kathryn Morrissey  
Study Abroad Program Assistant  
International Education & Exchange  
Photos Provided By: Mariel Romero and Bridget Contreras

Spring 2009 marked the end of a journey for seven California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) students who received the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship, a program that offers grants for U.S. undergraduate students to study abroad. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, this congressionally funded program is administered by the Institute of International Education. These seven CSUF students received a total of $30,500 to study abroad in: Denmark, India, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The Gilman Scholarship accepts applications every fall and spring for one or two semester study abroad programs. Over 1,200 scholarships were awarded during the 2008-09 academic year, with an average award of $4,000. The Gilman Scholarship, along with other study abroad scholarships given by different departments, agencies and governments help students make the dream of going abroad become a reality. Included below are reflections from three study abroad participants.

Mariel Romero, Spring 2009  
Hyderabad & Andhra Pradesh, India; University of Hyderabad, American Institute for Foreign Study  
Anthropology, Hindi, Religion and Philosophy

“The Gilman Scholarship was the answer to my dreams. Ever since childhood, my goal has been to travel abroad. Considering my current financial situation, without this scholarship, I may have not been able to study in India.”

“When asked to write about a memorable experience I had in India, I could not pin point just one. Every experience in India was intense, every moment was an adventure, every moment was incredible and I lived for every moment and every experience. One of my many heart touching experiences was my visit to the Ganges river in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India.”

Bridget Contreras, Academic Year 2008-09  
Denmark; Danish Institute for Study Abroad  
Psychology and Child Development

“While abroad I joined my host family on their annual ski trip to Sweden where I learned how to ski. I not only learned how to ski but I got to know my family at a much deeper level. Living with a Danish family was the best part about living abroad because not only did I make lifelong friends, but I also learned a lot about the Danish culture.”

This fall two more CSUF students received the Gilman Scholarship to study in Japan and Korea.

Mark Tran, Fall 2009  
Tokyo, Japan; CSU International Programs  
International Business, concentration in Japanese

“The scholarship gave me hope that studying abroad is not only possible, but affordable as well.”

“I am looking forward to a plethora of things in this upcoming year abroad. Aside from language proficiency and cultural immersion, perhaps the one thing I am looking forward to most would be a positive change in my own, personal growth. Spending a year abroad, for me, is not only a great educational experience, but a great growing experience too.”

For more information about the Gilman Scholarship or study abroad opportunities for CSUF, contact the Office of International Education and Exchange in UH 244.

Above: Bridget Contreras on her skiing vacation in Sweden.  
Left: Mariel Romero on the Ganges river in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, India.
This fall the Career Center organized a University-wide Campaign, TAKE FIVE, to encourage students to commit the time needed to learn lifelong career skills, develop a competitive advantage in the job market, and put their education to work. The Campaign is in response to the historically challenging job market brought about by the economic crisis of the past year. The evidence of the difficult job market is all around us. Current students are finding fewer available internships, and many that used to be paid are now unpaid. Recent graduates and seniors have shared their frustrations about competing for jobs with graduates from several years ago who have been laid-off due to the poor economy. The Campaign seeks to help students gain a competitive advantage by making an ongoing commitment of at least five hours per week to achieve their career goals, which are typically central to their decision to invest in higher education. Toward this end, the Career Center has developed five different TAKE FIVE Job Search Basics Workshops (offered three times each during the fall and spring '09-'10 semesters), as well as 12 new TAKE FIVE Advanced Workshops.

A series of targeted TAKE FIVE Internship and Job Search Events are also being offered to help students develop a better understanding of the job market, qualifications and expectations of potential employers; identify additional available opportunities; and develop the confidence needed to sell themselves effectively in the job search, internship search, and/or graduate school admissions process. The learning outcomes for these events align with the Professionalism and Self-Management domains in the Student Affairs Division-wide learning outcomes assessment initiative for the 2009-10 Academic Year.

Several Student Affairs offices and programs are active partners in this Campaign, including the Student Leadership Institute, the Titan Student Union, Student Academic Services, the Assistant Deans in the academic colleges, Guardian Scholars Program, and the office of International Education and Exchange. Also involved were a number of faculty and academic departments, as well as key employers. For more information on how you can join the campaign, please contact Jim Case, Director, Career Center, at 657-278-2499 or jcase@fullerton.edu.

Jim Case
Director, Career Center

Men’s Basketball

Continued from Page 1

career ended to get a bachelor of arts degree in communications in 2007. Many of these recent graduates were "special admits" who overcame previous shortcomings along with the time commitments and travel absences inherent with Div. I basketball to earn their diplomas.

Following is a list of Titan men’s basketball bachelors degree recipients, in alphabetical order:

Josh Akognon - Afro-Ethnic Studies, May 2009
Marcus Crenshaw - Afro-Ethnic Studies, Aug. 2008
Scott Cutley - Communications, Aug. 2008
Andrew Green - Afro-Ethnic Studies, Jan. 2009
Marcio Lassiter - Kinesiology, Aug. 2009
Marcus Morgan - Communications, Aug. 2008
Ray Reed - Communications, Aug. 2008
Frank Robinson - Communications, May 2008
Adam Thomas - Criminal Justice, May 2009

All five players with senior eligibility on the 2009-10 roster are on track to graduate this academic year.

Three of the ten graduates from the men’s basketball program from the past two seasons are, from left: Marcus Morgan, Andrew Green and Kenneth Alexander.
Underclassmen gathered in the Titan Student Union Pavilions B & C for “Tuffymood: Tour the Colleges” on October 6, 2009. The event was sponsored by the College of Health and Human Development InterClub Council and the Freshman Programs Student Association. The purpose of Tuffymood was to provide students with an interactive event where they could hear and obtain information about the services offered on campus that would help them to declare or decide on a major at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Participants in the event included the Academic Advisement Center, Career Center, Freshmen Programs, and the college-based Assistant Deans. The students also had the opportunity to learn more about CSUF’s eight colleges and the majors and minors they offer.

The event started with the interactive “party game” created by Richard Nelson Bolles. This consisted of the six Holland, or RIASEC letters posted on the walls of the Pavilions. Participants were given two opportunities to select a different corner. The purpose of the activity was to have students identify areas of interest and see the different careers that their interest may lead them to according to their Holland codes. The program included two web-based resources that link the Holland codes to specific careers.

Each of the Student Affairs areas represented had the opportunity to speak for a few minutes about what they had to offer for undeclared or open-minded students. Each College provided a brief introduction to their websites and highlighted their major programs. After the presentations, the students had the opportunity to break out to do their own investigative work and ask questions of College representatives. Dr. Nancy Page Fernandez, Director of Freshman Programs, emceed the event.

All in attendance at the event were engaged and asked questions about possible majors and careers.
**Parent Programs**

Serena Cline, Coordinator, New Student Programs  
Jolene Hill, Graduate Assistant, New Student Programs  
Dean of Students Office  
Photo Credit: William Vasta

New Student Programs (NSP) is excited to announce the expansion of our parent programs. Over the next year, with the help of a newly hired Graduate Program Assistant, NSP will be working to develop additional programs and services for CSUF parents and family members. These programs will supplement the highly successful Parent Orientation program that currently serves an average 2,500 parents each summer. Since parents and family members play a vital role in helping their students persist in college, the primary goals of these programs will be to provide parents with information to help their students succeed, build Titan pride and a sense of community amongst parents, and boost fundraising opportunities. Parents and family members can look forward to a website, newsletters, and events to help them connect with CSUF. For more information, or to get involved with parent programs, please contact New Student Programs at 657-278-2501 or nspga@fullerton.edu.

Above: California State University, Fullerton student, Aaron Salcido, with his parents during a campus visit.

**DVD Provides Positive Classroom Practices**

Dr. Andi Stein  
Professor, College of Communications

In an ideal classroom situation, faculty and students work together to create a positive learning environment. Sometimes, however, one or two students can interfere with this learning process by exhibiting inappropriate, disruptive behavior. This can provide challenges for faculty and distract other students in the class, preventing them from learning.

Successful Classroom Strategies: Managing Disruptive Behavior is a new DVD released by the Dean of Students Office to address this issue. Conceived by Dean of Students Kandy Mink Salas and Associate Dean, Judicial Affairs Sandra Rhoten, in partnership with Dr. Andi Stein, Department of Communications and funded by a University Planning Initiative, the DVD is designed to help faculty address inappropriate student behavior that can have a negative impact on the classroom environment.

“The student/faculty relationship is enhanced when clear boundaries and expectations are communicated. We wanted to provide information for faculty members on how to handle these sometimes delicate situations in the classroom” explained Mink Salas.

The DVD provides three scenarios that illustrate different types of disruptive behavior faculty may encounter both in and out of the classroom. Some of the issues covered include using cell phones during class, eating in the classroom, coming into class late and causing a commotion, asking inappropriate, repetitive questions about an assignment, and arguing about a grade in a threatening manner.

In each situation, viewers are shown two different ways they could possibly address this behavior. The first scene shows what can happen if the situation is not dealt with properly, while the second illustrates how the instructor can take proactive steps to curb the disruption.

At the end of the video, Rhoten provides some additional tips about what faculty can do if they are confronted with these or other disruptive situations in their classrooms.

Rhoten believes, “It is important for faculty to understand how to deal with difficult situations. We hope that this DVD will be a beginning of that understanding. If faculty are able to manage disruptive behavior immediately it is less likely to escalate.”

The DVD was written by Dr. Andi Stein in the Department of Communications and edited and produced by Professor Shelley Jenkins in the Department of Radio-TV-Film. A number of Jenkins’ students helped with the filming and appeared in the DVD as well.

The DVD is available at no charge from the Dean of Students Office. Rhoten is also willing to come to departmental faculty meetings to preview the film and talk about the topic. For more information, contact her at srhoten@fullerton.edu or at 657-278-4436.
Learning Outside Classroom...Just Made Easy
Doing More with Less - Student Affairs Technology Initiative

Elabe Amani
Director, Technology Services
Vice President for Student Affairs Office

In higher education and the California State University System (CSU), we are constantly facing the challenge of doing more with less. So the quest of “doing more with less” without compromising the effectiveness of our programs often leads us to seek answers through the utilization of technology. However, the cost to acquire, implement and maintain cutting edge, 24/7 accessible, and easy to use technology can be prohibitive. California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) faced such a challenge in creating an encouraging environment for our students to access and track co-curricular training, workshops, activities and other learning opportunities.

So, what is the solution to this quagmire? Perhaps thinking outside the box and being creative to visualize and “reinvent” an already existing tool that was never intended to be used in such a way! This is how the Division of Student Affairs came to implement LearnerWeb.

In fall 2006, with the notion of streamlining the registration process for students by making it available on-line and bringing more efficiency to the management of the Student Leadership Institute (SLI), an award winning leadership certification program on campus, Technology Services and the Dean of Students Office embarked on a project to build an application in-house. The objective of this project was to build a database with interface to the Student Information System, which would organize how students signed up for SLI workshops and tracked their progress towards their certificates, as well as facilitate communication with students and provide management reporting and assessment tools.

However, thinking strategically, after assessing and evaluating the technology needs of other programs, it became apparent that a centralized database for the entire division would not only be a great tool to bring more efficiency to administer programs and activities, but also would make more accessible the wide variety of services and programs available in the Division of Student Affairs.

With the lead of Technology Services, Dean of Students, and SLI, and the support of other programs within the Division of Student Affairs, a University Mission and Goals proposal was submitted and accepted. With these initial resources, the Division of Student Affairs contracted with LearnerWeb to develop a student-based tool. In fall 2008, SLI piloted the system and all the students registered for workshops on-line by clicking on the “Titan Student Development Center” tab in the Student Portal and utilizing the LearnerWeb application.

What is LearnerWeb? LearnerWeb is a Learning Management System Framework that manages any type of training as well as allowing configurable levels of self-service for users, managers, the training department and other user-definable roles. The Director of Technology Services for Student Affairs and the Coordinator of Student Leadership Programs, worked closely with the vendor to make the necessary adjustments to deliver a product which meets student needs.

The technology is scalable and adaptable to meet the demands of various programs in Student Affairs. LearnerWeb can manage and track a multi-workshop certificate program like SLI, as well as individual trainings, activities and volunteer events for students—managing the RSVP process—all in one location on the web. LearnerWeb application has an interface with Campus Solutions, student records database, and students are being authenticated via the university portal login system. The technology of LearnerWeb is 100% web-based installed behind portal firewalls for students. Servers are hosted and maintained by campus IT, ensuring compliance with CSU Information Security protocol. Security can be defined as needed and the system is in compliance with ADA 508.

Currently there are 56 trainers/instructors teaching 78 courses and workshops in the system. Student Affairs’ programs currently utilizing LearnerWeb in addition to SLI are the Volunteer and Service Center, Judicial Affairs, the WoMen’s Center, the Student Organization Resource Center, University Learning Center, International Education and Exchange and Counseling and Psychological Services.

In spring 2009 over 1000 students registered for the BUAD-301 INTEGRITY WORKSHOP (Academic Integrity: Foundation for Effective Writing Skills), the largest number of students for any single program thus far. The workshop, coordinated by Sandra Rhoten, Associate Dean of Students, Judicial Affairs, was required for students enrolled in BUAD-301 and covered strategies for avoiding plagiarism, using appropriate citation methods, preparing group projects and understanding professional ethics.

“We were delighted that LearnerWeb was available for our use with this project. Without it, over 1,400 BUAD-301 students would have been contacting us by email to try to sign up for one of the eight sessions of our workshops. It would have been a nightmare! With LearnerWeb it was a breeze for them to see which sessions were open, register for the workshop and receive a reminder email.”
-Sandra Rhoten

Efforts to expand and market the program continue. It is expected that in the near future other departments including Housing & Residence Life, the Student Employment Office and Academic Support Services will utilize LearnerWeb to register students for the learning experiences they offer.
Employee of the Year: Serena Cline

As a leader in the division of Student Affairs, I count myself fortunate to have Serena on staff. Her star shines brightly across campus for various reasons.

First, thinking outside the box; there is no better phrase to describe Serena’s approach to designing and facilitating our orientation programs. When Serena took over the responsibility for our orientation programs and student staff, she very easily could have rested on the laurels of a well-established and highly effective program. Instead, she continually challenges the process. As a result, the strength and diversity of our orientation staff has increased exponentially and we’ve created innovative programs that continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our new students and their families.

Second, Serena has been at the forefront of our division in terms of supporting learning outcomes assessment. Not only has she served on the Dean of Students Office assessment team, she has also been appointed to serve on the division-wide committee as the representative for New Student Programs.

Finally, Serena truly exemplifies the term team player. Since her arrival on campus in 2006, she has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty, not only to ensure the success of our programs, but also to assist with programs division and campus-wide including the Student Leadership Institute, University 100, Greek Week and the Social Justice Summit.

Titan Excellence Award Recipients: July 2009

Diana Avendaño
Administrative Support Coordinator to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Nominator: Silas Abrego, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Guilii Kraemer
Coordinator, Guardian Scholars Program
Nominator: Grace Johnson, Director, Guardian Scholars Program

Susan Leavy
Acting Director, WoMen’s Center/Adult Reentry
Nominator: Silas Abrego, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Amy Mattern
Coordinator, Volunteer & Service Center, Dean of Students Office
Nominator: Esiquio Uballe, Associate Dean of Students, Student Life Programs and Services

Kathryn Ruzzi
Administrative Assistant to the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs
Nominator: Lea Jarnagin, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs

Rochelle Woods
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
Nominator: Kandy Mink Salas, Dean of Students

Consider nominating your colleague today!
Student Affairs TEA Months are July and December. Nominations are accepted year round.

If you would like more information about Titan Excellence Awards please visit the TEA website at etd.fullerton.edu.

Above: the July 2009 Titan Excellence Awardees are featured with their nominators.

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