Guardian Scholars

Serving Former Foster Youth

Cal State Fullerton's Guardian Scholars program is committed to supporting ambitious college-bound students exiting the foster care system. The program provides comprehensive services that contribute to the quality and depth of the student’s university experience.

The program serves as a resource for young adults by assisting in their development and equipping them with the educational and interpersonal skills necessary to become self-supporting, community leaders, role models, and competent professionals in their selected fields.

Program benefits include: full financial scholarship, on campus housing, priority registration, drop-in study center, new student orientation, academic advising and mentoring opportunities.

Pictured above are the graduating scholars of the class of 2005.

The Cal State Fullerton Guardian Scholars Program is the first in the nation to address the needs of former foster youth in higher education through a comprehensive program.

The Guardian Scholars Program has served over 90 students since 1998.
This newsletter provides information and insight to a variety of programs and activities that advance the dual paradigm of student services and student development which are inherent in the mission of Student Affairs.

Some key articles represented in this edition pertain to our outstanding Guardian Scholars graduates, the soon to be built Student Recreation Center, and the highly successful Student Affairs Staff Development Conference. Also, our Associated Students Inc. President, Mona Mohammadi, and the recently appointed Executive Director of Associated Students Inc., Fred Sanchez, are highlighted in this edition. We also profile other staff members whose professional excellence in their daily work translates to enriched and enhanced experiences for CSUF students.

I thank the Student Affairs staff for their continued hard work. These accomplishments could not have been achieved without them!

Sincerely,

Robert L. Palmer, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs

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.
Interests and Activities:
Golf, the stock market, music.

Three adjectives that best describe me:
Friendly, Dedicated, and Inquisitive.

One thing I like about CSUF is:
The students. They’re great!

I always try to avoid: Sand traps.

My future plans include:
Many happy years here at CSUF.

My idea of a good time is:
Vacations with my family.

If I could wave a magic wand and change one thing about myself, it would be:
My golf swing.

I relax by:
Taking evening walks.

If I’ve learned one thing, it’s:
Give it your best and it will work out.

Something I can do now that I could not last year is:
Call myself a Titan.

One thing that makes me a good friend:
I’ll be there.

My favorite vacation spot is:
Maui and New York, New York.

The 2005-06 year brings new leadership in the Associated Students, Inc.
Meet the Executive Director and the new President.
For the past 26 years, thousands of children have spent part of their summers on the CSUF campus participating in sports activities, learning to swim and mastering gymnastics.

This past summer was no different as over a thousand children from the local community participated in the Titan Youth Sports Camp, Learn to Swim Program and the Titan Youth Gymnastics Camp. These activities are programs of Rec Sports and Associated Students, Inc.

The Titan Youth Sports Camp hosted two months of week-long camps, averaging about 100 children per week. The kindergarten through eighth graders developed teambuilding skills and made friendships through interaction with peers and counselors in various sports activities.

The Learn to Swim Program, certified by the Red Cross, provided swimming lessons for 900 people of all ages from 6 months to adults.

The Titan Youth Gymnastics Camp provided gymnastics instruction for about 140 boys and girls.

CSUF students benefit greatly from these summer programs as well. Approximately 50 CSUF students were employed as camp counselors, swim instructors, lifeguards and gymnastic coaches. Many of the workers are returning students who enjoyed positive experiences during previous summers.

“Summer youth programs benefit both the campus and the community.”

Dr. Andrea Willer
Director, Rec Sports
Titan Spirit is Catching On

An increasing number of activities are happening on campus that are charging up Titan Spirit. CSUF has formed a Titan cheer squad for the first time in many years. The cheerleaders will represent CSUF and lead the fans to support both the women and men’s basketball teams this season.

A squad of 14 women was chosen out of a field of 60 interested students. The women were selected through three rounds of tryouts including an interview. The CSUF Cheer Squad debuts at the men’s basketball game versus Hope University on November 20, 2005.

A newly “re-energized” Tuffy the Titan will join the new cheer squad and the CSUF Dance team and make appearances at all of the basketball games this year. The combination of the Dance Team, Cheer Squad and Tuffy the Titan will enhance the experience of CSUF athletic events for everyone.

The Associated Students, Inc. sponsors the Titan Tusk Force or TTF as it is better known. The TTF attends games, coordinates activities and encourages CSUF spirit. For more information on the TTF, please contact Anthony Ragazzo at (714)278-7734.

For information on the Cheer Squad or Tuffy the Titan, contact Andi Sims at (714)278-4942. For information on the Dance Team, contact Steve DiTolla at (714)278-7991.

Congratulations to CSUF Employees of the Year: Larry Martin and Lisa Jones!

“I feel very fortunate to have this program and also to be recognized from such an outstanding pool of candidates.”

-Larry Martin

“It is a true honor and also encouraging that my colleagues appreciate the hard work that I have done for the College of Engineering and CSUF.”

-Lisa Jones
A rock climbing wall, indoor track, badminton courts and a state of the art multi media cardio room and other recreational highlights are part of the plans for the new Student Recreation Center at CSUF.

The new Center was a project initiated by Associated Students, CSUF, Inc. and strongly supported by CSUF students as a way of enhancing the fitness, recreational and social needs of the campus community. A student advisory fee referendum was passed by the students-at-large in May of 2000 and student leaders have been involved in every phase of the project’s planning. ASI President Mona Mohammadi and Holly Stone and Melissa Utsuki, of the Titan Student Union Governing Board have had input into the program development, financial planning and the facility's design layout.

The 90,000 square foot center, scheduled for ground breaking in Summer 2006, will feature one of the largest recreational cardio/weight training rooms on a west coast college campus. This fitness room will support cardio training equipment, resistance weight training and free weight/plate stations.

A signature design element of the Center is the multi media cardio room. This space is being designed for cardio fitness supported by the latest audio visual entertainment. It will be the first of its kind featured in a west coast university recreational center.

The Center will also feature a 22,000 square foot gymnasium with space for three basketball courts, six volleyball or nine badminton courts with drop curtain divides and multiple scoreboards. A 7,000 square foot jogging track, featuring three running lanes and pace clocks, will be elevated above the gymnasium. An outdoor pool and multipurpose activity space are also in the plans.

Since the program will be largely student-fee supported, the primary audience of the center will be currently enrolled CSUF students. Faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and other campus affiliates will be eligible for fee-based access to the facility and its programs.

The approximate 40 million dollar construction project is being funded through a combination of student fees, cash contributions from the Titan Student Union and revenue bond financing. The center will be located north of the Titan Student Union.
The new Student Rec Center will offer not only top quality fitness facilities and amenities, but will also serve as a great facility for student groups to do a wide variety of activities. Some of these activities may include team building facilitation, cultural dance practice space, and a great place to hang out.

“I am torn over the most exciting features in the upcoming Student Rec Center. My two favorites are the Cardio Theater and the pool. The Cardio Theater is a regular cardio work-out room outfitted with technology at each station. With this, each student can watch their choice of TV station or listen to music of their choice without having to bring anything but headphones. The pool is a really fun element because of its unique shape. We already have a pool for laps in the KHS building, but this is a pool for fun and enjoyment (while still having a few lap lanes). It will feel like a resort with a shoreline-like entrance and an indoor/outdoor juice bar.”

-Holly Stone
Congratulations to the following staff members on their new appointments!

**Ryan Alcantara**, formerly of the Honors and Scholars Support Services Program, joined New Student Programs as the Acting Associate Dean.

**Jen Cabaje** joined the staff of Rec Sports as the Membership Services Coordinator.

**Patricia Catanzaro**, RNP, joined CSUF as a Nurse Practitioner in the Student Health and Counseling Center.

**Courtney Clay**, Ph.D., joined Counseling and Psychological Services as a Counseling Psychologist.

**Carmen Curiel**, formerly of the Dean of Students office, joined Honors and Scholars Support Services as the Acting Director.

**Deborah Edelman-Blank**, Psy.D., joined Counseling and Psychological Services as a Counseling Psychologist.

**Cathy Felix-Baker**, formerly of Cal Poly Pomona, is the new Assistant Director of Student Health and Counseling Services at CSUF.

**Amy Mattern**, formerly of the Vice President for Student Affairs Office, joined the office of Student Life as the Acting Coordinator of the Volunteer and Service Center.

**Ken Maxey** joined the staff of Rec Sports as the Games and Recreation Manager.

**Kevin McGinnis** joined CSUF as the new Coordinator of Leadership and Multicultural Development Programs in the Dean of Students Office.

**Julie Meisels**, Ph.D., joined Counseling and Psychological Services as a Counseling Psychologist.

**Rodsana Meneses** joined the Dean of Students Office as the Administrative Assistant to the Dean.

**Deanna Merino**, formerly of Cal Poly Pomona, joined CSUF as the new Coordinator of Greek Life.

**Brett Robertson**, formerly of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is the new Coordinator of New Student Programs.

**Brie Roumeliotis**, formerly of Freshman Programs, is the new Health Educator for Student Health and Counseling Services.

**Lenka Schanka** joined CSUF as a Medical Records Clerk in Student Health and Counseling Services.

**Yen-Ling Shek** joined CSUF as the new Coordinator of Leadership and Multicultural Development Programs in the Dean of Students office.

**Sabrina Sanders**, formerly of the Dean of Students Office, is now the Acting Director of Athletic Academic Services.

**Andi Sims** is the new Acting Coordinator in Student Life in the Dean of Students Office.

**Aaron Tapper** joined CSUF as the Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities in Athletics.

**Alba Thompson**, the former Pharmacist for Student Health and Counseling Services, has retired.
Steve DiTolla, Associate Athletic Director, Marketing & Promotions, was elected 2005-2006 President of the Fullerton South Rotary Club.

Bob Ericksen, Director of International Education and Exchange, chaired the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) Conference held during May, 2005 in Seattle, WA. The conference attracted a record 6,800 participants.

Lou Gill, Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life, is serving on the Apartment Life and Newsletter committees for the Western Association of College and University Housing Officers (WACUHO) during 2005-2006.

George Horton, Head Coach of Baseball, was named Big West Conference Coach of the Year for 2005 and one of Orange County’s Man of the Year.

Lea Jarnagin, Acting Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs, presented a program entitled, “Panel of Listeners” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Regional Conference held during November, 2005 in Tucson, AZ. Lea serves on the Advisory Board of the NASPA National Center for Research on Women as well as Vice Chair of the NASPA Region IV, Southern California Executive Committee for 2005-2007.

Karen Kerr, Associate Director of the Career Center, presented a program, “Making Connections: How to Use Consultative Selling Skills to Market Your Campus to Employers” at the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) National Conference held during May, 2005 in Milwaukee, WI.

Lea Beth Lewis, Student Affairs’ Assistant Dean for the College of Health and Human Development, co-chaired the 22nd Annual International Career Development Conference held November 7-11, 2005 in Garden Grove, CA.

Larry Martin was named Director of Regions for the National Orientation Director’s Association (NODA) for 2005-2007.

Kandy Mink, Dean of Students, and Nancee Wright, Student Affairs’ Assistant Dean for the College of Education, presented a program entitled, “A Doctoral Experience: Traps and Tips” at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Regional Conference held during November, 2005 in Tucson, AZ.

The 2004-2005 National Championship Baseball Team was hosted at the White House in Washington, D.C on May 13, 2005.


Brian Quinn, Athletics Director, was elected this fall to a four-year term on the NCAA Baseball Committee.

Lay Tuan Tan, Associate Director of International Education and Exchange, co-chaired the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) Regional Conference held during October, 2005 in Anaheim, CA.

July 2005 Titan Excellence Awards

Congratulations to our staff!

Richard Boucher, M.D., Chief Staff Physician for Student Health and Counseling Services

Joe Camacho, Assistant Equipment Manager for Athletics

Giulii Kraemer, Administrative Assistant for Guardian Scholars

Jessica Schutte, Assistant Director of Financial Aid
“Knowledge is Power”

Lea M. Jarnagin, Chair
Student Affairs Staff Development Committee

The nature of the business of student affairs and the coordination of student support services justify the need for staff to be engaged in ongoing personal and professional growth and the continuous development of skills in order to effectively serve students and the university. Increasing demands from students, parents, faculty, and others require student affairs staff to develop greater expertise on students. Staff also must be equipped with relevant skills to deal with present day issues confronting students both on and off campus.

With these concerns in mind, the Student Affairs Staff Development Program was created to provide opportunities for expanding personal and professional skills with activities such as the half-day Student Affairs Staff Development Conference.

This year’s theme, “Knowledge is Power”, provided a unique opportunity to tap into the wealth of knowledge and expertise possessed by colleagues across campus. Representing the university throughout the region and on the national scene, the workshop presenters are leaders in their disciplines and their professional associations who readily assist their colleagues at campuses throughout the nation. The presenters delivered workshops designed to share their insights, challenges and successes realized throughout their careers.

With approximately 130 participants, attendance nearly doubled from last year. Three major points emerged from the conference evaluations. First, participants were delighted with the conference format that involved experts on campus presenting workshops. Second, participants requested that the format be repeated next year with workshops that were longer in order to accommodate more discussion and in depth analysis. Third, participants expressed gratitude that an open invitation across campus was extended to this year’s event.

Evaluation results were very positive with 97% of the respondents rating the content of the workshops and their usefulness as “good” or “excellent.” The most enjoyable aspect of the event were the discussions and interactions with colleagues and the quality of the presentations. The Student Affairs Staff Development Committee is already hard at work planning next summer’s event!

“I appreciated your opening up this conference to the whole campus community.”

-2005 Participant

“The conference was well worth my time. Thank you.”

-2005 Participant

“Very well organized. Speakers/presenters were very dynamic and energetic.”

-2005 Participant
In February of 2004, the Housing and Residence Life Office held an initial meeting of a committee formed to launch the Phase III Student Housing Feasibility Study. The study identified the demand for campus student housing and the preferred student housing type.

Research conducted by the consulting firm of Anderson Strickler, LLC determined that the demand for campus housing remained strong. Various processes, which included market research, focus groups, surveys of on and off-campus students, and surveys of prospective students and parents resulted in initial data concluding that there was a demand for more than 4,000 additional bed spaces on campus.

The Office of Housing and Residence Life, after extensive evaluation and consultation, is preparing a Phase III Student Housing proposal for review by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and the President’s Advisory Board.

The Phase III Student Housing Proposal is specifically designed to address additional dimensions of an on-campus housing program that strengthens the connection between Housing and Residence Life and the academic community to fulfill the university’s educational mission.

The Phase II Housing Study recommends adding 1,000 additional bed spaces to the current campus capacity of 800 beds. Phase III will be organized around the “living-learning community” theme and might include classroom space as well as faculty office space.

The most notable difference between the current housing and the proposed housing will be that the new accommodations will be suite style housing with on-campus kitchens. Current housing is self-contained apartment style living. It is anticipated that Phase III Student Housing will have a food service facility and a minimum of 1,000 residents on a meal plan. Anticipated opening for Phase III is Fall 2009.
Grants Focus on Alcohol Education

California State University, Fullerton’s Dean of Students’ Office has been awarded three grants that will continue to focus campus attention on alcohol use by campus constituents by using several different approaches.

The “Safer University” grant, awarded by the State Prevention Resource Center to 22 University of California and California State University campuses, will focus on data collection. CSUF is a control group collecting data on alcohol incidences both on and off campus. Additionally, students will participate in a random survey seeking their perceptions on drinking, alcohol consumption and other alcohol related issues.

The second grant, a State Incentive Grant, funded by the state and administered by the County of Orange Health Care Agency, is a cooperative effort between CSUF, The County of Orange and University of California, Irvine. The grant will focus on four areas:

- Social access to alcohol by minors
- Alcohol promotion by local retailers
- Lease contract language in both on-and-off campus housing related to alcohol.
- Drinking patterns and behaviors of multicultural groups.

The third grant is funded by the State Office of Traffic Safety and will focus on reducing alcohol related incidents, especially drunk driving. This will be accomplished through an internet based alcohol education program called, “AlcoholEDU” which will be used by the residence halls, Greek Life and Judicial Affairs. Also peer education will be provided through GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol).

Mary Hermann, Director of Health Education, is excited about the grants because they offer opportunities for campus collaboration on an important issue. “The grants will make our existing efforts more cohesive and allow groups like the Greeks, residence life and Health Education to combine our efforts and accomplish a lot more”, said Hermann.