Titan Excellence Award Recipients
July 2010

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: Dr. Kandy Mink Salas, Martha Poledna, Paul Miller, Roman Hernandez, Dr. Robert L. Palmer, Laura Neal, and Sean Gil.

Titan Making a Difference: Women’s Volleyball
Mel Franko Sr. Associate Athletic Director, Media Relations
Photo Credit: Matt Brown

The 2010 Cal State Fullerton women’s volleyball team is enjoying its most successful season ever, yet the coaches and players still find the time to give back to their community.

The Titans joined athletes and coaches from professional, college and high school teams as instructors at Orange County Parks Sports Day at Craig Regional Park in Fullerton on Sunday, Oct. 10th.

OC Park Sports Day was an event staged by Orange County Parks (ocparks.com) for children ages 6 to 17 years to learn the skills of soccer, baseball, basketball, football, racquetball, softball and volleyball.

The Titans taught alongside USC football alumnus Anthony Davis, former Angels pitcher David Frost, racquetball national champion Rocky Caron, the Hope University softball team, the Fullerton High School basketball team and the Los Angeles Galaxy Street Team. The event ran from noon to 4 p.m.

Fall 2010

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Supporting Veterans
Lea M. Jarnagin, Ed.D.
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs

After nearly four decades of service in higher education, Dr. Robert L. Palmer, Vice President for Student Affairs will retire at the end of 2010.

I took this opportunity to sit down with him and ask him to reflect on his 36 years providing leadership to student affairs divisions first at the State University of New York, Buffalo and for the past 13 years at Cal State Fullerton. His thoughtfulness, insights and passion for the profession he refers to as “the perfect career choice for me” came through loud and clear. Here’s what he had to say.

Another issue is financial support, “How am I going to cover the cost of my education?” That’s an increasing concern as the cost of education has escalated in every sector – private and public.

What do you see as some future directions in higher education? How might these affect student affairs?

I think this whole business of accountability in education will continue to be emphasized. I think more and more as costs go up and investments go up and expectations go up, people want to know, “are we getting the bang for the buck?” This whole business of evaluation and assessment will be key to higher education. In student affairs, given the nature of our work, we have to be able to readily show value-added. What we do for the institution and for the students will
Veterans Student Services Program at California State University Fullerton is the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education, Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant. The three-year, $318,000 grant will allow CSUF to increase academic, co-curricular and personal support for the 450 military veteran students enrolled at CSUF.

Veterans Student Services had its start in 2008 in response to Troops to College, a partnership between California State University, California Community Colleges and the University of California. The initiative encouraged veteran support programs to be made available at California’s public institutions of higher education.

CSUF currently provides veteran student programming including discussion groups, female veteran support services, VA certification, advocacy and a Student Veterans Association. Expanded programs and services including a mentorship program, tutoring, expanded female veteran services, on-site visits with Veteran Affairs staff, and psychological support services.

Two programs funded by the grant are particularly unique to CSUF’s veteran students. Beginning fall 2011 new student veterans will have the opportunity to enroll in “University 300.” The course is modeled after Freshman Program’s University 100 courses, and provides a cohort learning experience to introduce new students to the University environment. Specific instruction on library research and test-taking skills, reading and comprehension will be embedded in the 10-week course. Students will be introduced to programs and services that assist in academic success as well as personal connectivity and social support.

Two programs funded by the grant are particularly unique to CSUF’s veteran students. Beginning fall 2011 new student veterans will have the opportunity to enroll in “University 300.” The course is modeled after Freshman Program’s University 100 courses, and provides a cohort learning experience to introduce new students to the University environment. Specific instruction on library research and test-taking skills, reading and comprehension will be embedded in the 10-week course. Students will be introduced to programs and services that assist in academic success as well as personal connectivity and social support.

A second critical component is a support group that will meet bi-weekly for the first term, monthly thereafter. The group will consist of both male and female students and will meet to discuss issues pertinent to the female veteran student population is approximately 20% female. Women in the military face distinctive personal and social issues as compared to male veterans. The incidence of sexual offences against women is a major concern. Women experience post traumatic stress differently than their male counterparts and female veterans often receive a lesser amount of social acceptance. Programs and services for women will concentrate on these issues.

Unique programming for veteran students is in the beginning stages. With the infusion of funds from the FIPSE grant we are better positioned to support and honor our courageous veteran students.

The Veterans Student Services Program Coordinator is Joseph Chang, an Army veteran who served in Iraq. He can be reached by visiting UH 245, calling (657) 278-8660 or e-mail jjchang@fullerton.edu.
As a comprehensive regional university with a global outlook, Cal State Fullerton has shown a great commitment to preparing our students, faculty and staff to be culturally competent individuals. The Cultural Diversity requirement in our General Education curriculum as well as programs such as Study Abroad, EMBRACE, and SafeSpace are a few examples of how CSUF aims to increase knowledge about multiculturalism and promote sensitivity, which are especially important on a campus as diverse as ours.

Recent events such as hate incidents occurring on local campuses, the first amendment issues raised at UCI, the anti-immigrant law passed in Arizona, the bullying and suicides of LGBT youth, and the same sex marriage debate, all raise concerns about whether Americans are adequately educated about issues of diversity, inclusion and community. Related is America’s ability to be globally conscious. There are workplace implications too as companies find themselves in need of employees who are culturally competent and competitive in a world economy. As a campus that has earned numerous awards and recognition for its cultural diversity and contributions to the state’s workforce, CSUF must continue to ask itself whether the university can do more to educate students to become socially responsible and interculturally competent individuals who are prepared for leadership roles in a global community.

On October 1, 2010, over 900 students, faculty, staff and community members participated in an “Unfinished Conversation” - a one day event comprised of a keynote address, dialogue sessions, and a film showing and discussion. All sessions were facilitated by Lee Mun Wah, a nationally acclaimed diversity trainer and creator of such films as “The Color of Fear” and “The Last Chance for Eden.” The goal of the program was to engage participants in an open and authentic dialogue about diversity. The program was sponsored by Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, ASI, Inc., AIC, School of Nursing, Mihaylo College of Business & Economics, Freshman Programs, the Multicultural Leadership Center, International Education & Exchange, the WoMen’s Center, Housing and Residence Life, the Department of Counseling, and Greek Life.

The “Unfinished Conversation” offered a rare opportunity for participants to share personal stories related to race, gender and ability. A key point emphasized throughout the day was the importance of understanding personal histories and life stories as a means to know others deeply. Mun Wah also emphasized the importance of taking personal responsibility and speaking up in response to acts of intolerance and discrimination. In the words of Lee Mun Wah, “Just because you don’t talk about it, it doesn’t mean it goes away; just because you don’t talk about it, doesn’t mean it goes away.”

He encouraged participants to take personal responsibility by taking a stand and speaking up as a means to fight intolerance.

Lee Mun Wah
Continued from page 1

If you value higher education then the next step is focusing on the work we do -- helping students take advantage of the opportunities that higher education provides. And along with that, you have to really look at who receives the benefits of your work, and that's the students. You have to believe in them. You have to believe it's important to help guide and direct these students toward their goal. You have to love students. If you love the students, you will love your work.

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For 20 years. That's a long time! But what I enjoy most about it, I think is being able to be a part of building something. Institutions aren't stagnant; they're moving, breathing, living organizations. I've been fortunate in my career to work for and with presidents and colleagues that are builders as well, who have a vision for the institution and are moving toward advancing a mission that will help that vision become clear. CSUF is totally different than when I arrived 13 years ago. Now, I can't take sole credit for that. President Gordon has given leadership to the institution and put together a good team; all of us have helped influence the growth in size and stature of this place. We have an interesting group of leaders at CSUF. They're very creative, they're not adverse to risk, and they'll go forward with the notion of advancing the institution for the betterment of students and the region we serve. I know I've helped influence that in a lot of ways, and that is the most rewarding part, other than working with students.

Thinking about the 36 years in the field, what do you think have been some of your greatest challenges?

Declining budgets – I've gone through several cycles throughout my career and they are the most challenging because there's a tendency to cut back on things that are not viewed by some as being essential. In other words, when there are cut backs, very often access programs, support programs, are seen as non-essential. That's a fight to keep those things at the forefront of decision makers and help advance the notion of those as being true priorities and not just being some niceties you can have, or that you have as an addition. Those are real challenges in tough times. In a nutshell, dealing with advancing the mission and philosophy of Student Affairs in tough budget times has been my greatest challenge.

What are some things people don't know about you that might surprise them?

As an undergraduate I was training to be a painter. I was an art major with an emphasis in painting primarily. But you know the times, the student activism, the pressing issues of the day drew me to higher education as the mechanism to level the playing field, and it was the best career choice I ever made. I have no regrets about the profession I chose. However, now that I am ending this phase, I may go back and see if I can really develop those talents in painting. I do have an inclination, I enjoyed it immensely, but I am nowhere near where I'd like to be. So, I'd like to refocus on that a bit. I have a little studio I have put together in my home. It's all set up; it's ready to go, so once I retire, I'll really spend some time there.

What do you think you've enjoyed most about being a Vice President?

Well, I've been a VP -- I was thinking about this -- for 20 years. That's a long time! But what I enjoy most about it, I think is being able to be a part of building something. Institutions aren't stagnant; they're moving, breathing, living organizations. I've been fortunate in my career to work for and with presidents and colleagues that are builders as well, who have a vision for the institution and are moving toward advancing a mission that will help that vision become clear. CSUF is totally different than when I arrived 13 years ago. Now, I can't take sole credit for that. President Gordon has given leadership to the institution and put together a good team; all of us have helped influence the growth in size and stature of this place. We have an interesting group of leaders at CSUF. They're very creative, they're not adverse to risk, and they'll go forward with the notion of advancing the institution for the betterment of students and the region we serve. I know I've helped influence that in a lot of ways, and that is the most rewarding part, other than working with students.

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Art 4 Health

Misti D. Osmialowski
Executive Assistant, Executive Director’s Office, Student Health and Counseling Center

The Student Health and Counseling Center held its 4th Annual Art 4 Health Opening Reception and Art Auction on Friday, October 15, 2010, from 3:00-6:00 p.m. The art show highlighted the artwork of 41 artists; 66 percent of whom are current students. Out of the 105 art pieces, there were four Best of Show winners. Nimalie Salim and Shaday Deebie tied for Best of Show Student and each received a $200 scholarship. Lauren Gallegos was presented with the Best of Show Alumni award and received gallery space in the TSU for three months beginning in January, and Raven (Laura) Mansen was recognized with the Best of Show Faculty/Staff Award. The event was a huge success, with nearly all artists and jurors in attendance, as well as many of their family members and friends. The opening reception was a collaboration of the Student Health and Counseling Center, the Division of Student Affairs, the College of the Arts, and Health and Human Development. The Arts Inter-club Council held their Art Festival, providing entertainment for attendees.

PASA Friendship Games Celebrates 25 Years!

Carmen Curiel
Director, Multicultural Leadership Center, Dean of Students Office

The rainy start did not dampen the mood or spirits of the CSUF Filipino American Student Association (PASA) 25th Annual Friendship Games held on Saturday, October 30. Friendship Games began in 1985 for the purpose of bringing together PASA groups from various colleges for a day of fun and friendly picnic games, performances, and to celebrate SPUP – Spirit, Pride, Unity, and Friendship. A record 41 schools from California, Nevada, and Arizona, participated. An estimated 6,000 people attended the event.

The day began in earnest with the CSUF PASA students adjusting the program to minimize risk of injury both on stage for the performances and on the ECS Lawn for the games. This was “controlled chaos” at its best. Student Co-Coordinators Keisha Macon and Jerell Rosales worked closely with Dean of Students and ASI staff members to ensure that each component of the day – roll call, the games, and halftime show—was executed safely and in keeping with the tradition of Kaibigan (meaning “friend” in Tagalog, the major language of the Philippines), to promote Filipino unity through education, responsibility and character. This priority was reflected through the 13 food, clothing, and non-profit vendors who staffed booths throughout the day.

Thankfully, the rain stopped just before the 7am registration period and gave way to a cloudy but dry and fun-filled day. This year, the PASA team from San Jose State University won both the games competition and the 8 foot tall trophy for demonstrating the most SPUP. The CSUF PASA looks forward to hosting Friendship Games again next year, and quite possibly, to its 50th anniversary.

Above: Some highlights from this year’s event. Students competing in a heat of the Big Groud Hog relay; Students arrive bright and early for registration; CSUF PASA members pushing hard to win their heat of the Alypua Green relay; Team Miliinia performs at halftime show.
Two student groups, Peer Health University Network (PHUN) and Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol (GAMMA) collaborated with the Student Health and Counseling Center to present a weeklong series of activities focused on reducing high-risk drinking and related negative consequences.

The week began with the University Police Department hosting an impaired driving obstacle course and field sobriety tests on Monday, October 18th. Students tested their ability to drive a golf cart or complete field sobriety test while wearing impaired vision goggles of high to low intoxication. Titan TV captured great moments of students surprised by how difficult it was to drive the golf cart without hitting cones or walk in a straight line during the field sobriety test.

The Alcohol Town Hall Event was held in the evening on Tuesday, October 19th in the Titan Student Union (TSU). The event featured a panel of campus and community members who facilitated a discussion of strategies to prevent impaired driving and encourage the legal and responsible use of alcohol. Panelists included Marian Novak, Project Manager of Recording Artists Against Drunk Driving, Cpl. Paul McClain, University Police Department; Joseph Lopez, president of Associated Students Inc.; and Irene Umiqip, Health Educator of Community Service Programs Inc.

Included in the Alcohol Town Hall Event was a Resource Fair in the Atrium of the TSU, featuring campus and community organizations. Participants included Mothers Against Drunk Driving, CSUF Police Department, Community Service Programs, and CSUF Substance Abuse, Awareness and Prevention Student Association.

To illustrate the fight against drinking and driving incidents, members of campus Greek organizations and PHUN visually displayed alcohol awareness themes by creating chalk murals on Wednesday, October 20th. Judges included Jacquelyn Blyleven, Assistant Director, Health Education and Promotion, CSUF Student Health and Counseling Center. Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and Delta Chi Fraternity were recognized for their outstanding chalk designs and ultimately for winning the GAMMA Spirit Award for Alcohol Awareness Week.

On Monday, October 18th, a vehicle from a drinking and driving accident, sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving, was displayed on Titan Walk. Students from Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol and the Peer Health University Network placed red ribbons around the campus to signify Alcohol Awareness Week and to enforce the anti-drinking and driving message.

Alcohol Awareness Week was a great success and we are looking forward to the event in October 2011!

Jaclyn Blyleven
Health Educator, Student Health and Counseling Center

Jenell Bukky
Assistant Coordinator, Greek Life, Dean of Students Office

Photos Credit: Jaclyn Blyleven & Jenell Bukky

New Student Programs has officially launched the Titan Parent Association, a community of proud parents who wish to be involved and informed partners in their student’s success. Over the previous year Titan Parents were given a hotline phone number and dedicated e-mail address, allowing them to contact the university with any questions or concerns. They also received exclusive invitations to events and activities on campus, as well as an electronic quarterly newsletter called the Titan Parent Connection. This year Titan Parents have even more to look forward to.

Titan Parents is proud to announce the development of the first Titan Parent Advisory Board. This outstanding group of parents will be hand-selected to represent the parent voice on campus. As we move into the spring, the board will assist with events, activities, and fundraising for Titan Parents. Here are some of the events parents have to look forward to:

• February 2, 2011 - Homecoming 2011 - Parents are invited to attend on-campus tailgate festivities and cheer on the Titan men’s basketball team.

• April 16, 2011 - Night of the Pachyderm - This Alumni-sponsored event includes a delicious BBQ tailgate for alumni and parents, and a ticket to an always exciting Titan baseball game.

Titan Parents Fund, our annual fundraising campaign, is also currently underway. Students participating in the campaign have been sharing campus updates, highlighting the completion of new construction projects, and spreading the word about the benefits of the Titan Parent Association. We are in the middle of this fundraising drive, and parents have already made 392 pledges to financially support the campus and students.

To learn how to become part of the Titan Parent Association and receive the newsletter, updates, and invitations to exclusive parents events feel free to contact the Titan Parent Hotline at (657) 278-2958 or email titanparents@fullerton.edu.

Titan Parent Association looks forward to an exciting inaugural year!

Jolene Hill
Graduate Assistant, New Student Programs, Dean of Students Office

Email: jhills@fullerton.edu

Photos Credit: Jolene Hill

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Photo Credit: Jaime E. Hamilton

Roman Hernandez, Adaptive Technology Specialist
Nominator: Paul Miller, Director, Disabled Student Services

Laura Neal, Industry Specialist-Arts, Entertainment and Communications
Nominator: Sean Gil, Associate Director, Career Center

Martha Poledna, Office Manager
Nominator: Dr. Kandy Mink Salas, Dean of Students

Aaron Tapper, Assistant Athletic Director, Facilities
Nominator: Brian Quinn, Director of Athletics
(Not Pictured)

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Titan Making a Difference: Women's Volleyball

Mel Franks
Sr. Associate Athletic Director, Media Relations
Photo Credit: Matt Brown

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