Welcome to Our New Vice President

The Division of Student Affairs welcomes Dr. Berenecea Johnson Eanes as the new Vice President for Student Affairs at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Dr. Eanes was appointed following a nationwide search. Dr. Eanes is a woman who has devoted her career to assisting adolescents and young adults in meeting and achieving their life goals. She served as Vice President of Student Affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a college within the City University of New York. In this capacity, she provided vision, leadership and oversight to student services on campus, including student life, health services, accessibilities services, the Children’s and Women’s centers, athletics, community outreach and service learning, counseling, the college’s Urban Male Initiative and career services. In addition, she was Associate Professor and chair of the Counseling Department.

Dr. Mildred García, President of CSUF, has said, “Dr. Johnson Eanes’ experiences and skills will help us to continue advancing the University for many years to come. I know that she will be a strong colleague as she is deeply committed to the mission of CSU Fullerton.”

Over the last 15 years, Dr. Eanes has led student success initiatives for a wide range of institutions, including Hamilton College, Morehouse College, Columbia University and Georgia State University, as well as for John Jay College of Criminal Justice. “I’m looking forward to my arrival at Cal State Fullerton,” Dr. Eanes said. “The diversity of the student population appeals to me. In many ways, the CSU system is similar to the CUNY system, so it’s an area where I feel comfortable. My experience has allowed me to work with diverse groups of students and deepen my understanding of their concerns. “My goal is to ensure that student affairs continues to work closely with students and expand the guidance and access they need to succeed.”

A prolific writer and organizer, Dr. Eanes co-authored more than $4 million in grants for various initiatives, often focusing on student development. “I anticipate getting to know the students, the team in student affairs and developing a better understanding of the Fullerton culture. I want to initiate and develop strong relationships with students, faculty and staff, and be a good partner in our shared enterprise of providing educational opportunities.”

Dr. Eanes earned her doctorate in social work in 2000 from Clark Atlanta University. She also received a master of social work from Boston University in 1992 and bachelor of science degree in public health from Dillard University in 1988. She succeeds Robert L. Palmer, who served as Vice President for Student Affairs from August 1997 until his retirement in December 2010. Silas H. Abrego served as Interim Vice President from January 2011 through his retirement in June 2012.
Fond Farewell to an Exceptional Leader

Vice President for Student Affairs Staff
Photos Provided by Strategic Communications

Since his arrival at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in 1985, Dr. Silas H. Abrego demonstrated a true passion for achieving excellence in service to students, particularly to students who do not have a family history of participating in higher education. The cornerstone of his career in education was program development with an emphasis on preparing young people to succeed in higher education. He was especially interested in helping low-income, underrepresented, and first-generation students who would otherwise not pursue or begin a higher education.

At CSUF, Dr. Abrego was a visionary leader in the planning and implementation of highly successful outreach and retention programs, ensuring that the institution is not only accessible to students, but also provided the support services and resources students need to be successful. In addition to his commitment to our students, he has been an incredible fundraiser, pursuing and securing public and private funds to develop support programs and help students finance their education. The following highlight some of the contributions he has made to the University over his tenure at CSUF.

Dr. Abrego has been a tireless advocate for student issues by serving as a role model and advisor to several student organizations and was dedicated to the involvement of student leaders in campus governance. He ensured that campus student leaders maintain a central role in the decision making process, treating them as equals.

Dr. Abrego founded the CSUF Hispanic Scholarship Golf Tournament and the Hispanic Scholarship Endowment Fund, which has raised scholarship funds for deserving low income CSUF students through the Future Scholars Program. Since 1987, more than 1,000 students have been awarded scholarships from the Golf Tournament.

Throughout his career, Dr. Abrego had a passionate and dedicated focus on underrepresented and underserved students in higher education and served as the Director of the Educational Opportunity Program for thirteen years. He co-authored the first Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services and McNair Program grants from the U.S Department of Education on the Fullerton campus. He truly believes that every student, no matter their cultural or socioeconomic background, should have the chance to pursue their dreams via their education.
As Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Abrego pursued strategies for enhancing the support for Intercollegiate Athletics and was successful in gaining additional scholarship support to offset recent increases in the cost of attendance, and worked to ensure that campus leadership was aware of the support required to maintain an appropriately funded Division I athletics program.

Dr. Abrego has not only made an impact on the campus, but has also been a tremendous presence in the community on behalf of CSUF. In addition to his continuous support of on campus organizations, Dr. Abrego has also been involved in numerous critical educational committees. He has been involved in numerous community organizations and was also involved in national and statewide higher education advisory boards. Additionally, he has been actively involved in a number of collaborative projects with local K-12 schools.

In recognition of his outstanding educational leadership, Dr. Abrego has been honored by United Way of Orange County, the Hispanic Outreach Taskforce, Union Hispana, the Santa Ana College Foundation, the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and other numerous organizations.

In addition to his expansive recognitions from a wide variety of organizations, Dr. Abrego has received numerous awards including, most recently, the OC Human Relations “Diverse Community Leader Award.” Furthermore, during Dr. Abrego’s Retirement Celebration on June 29, 2012, the President of CSUF, Dr. Mildred García, granted Dr. Abrego’s emeritus status for his many years of service to the campus community. Dr. García called him “a passionate and visionary leader” and “unstoppable as a force for all students, especially underrepresented students.”

Under the leadership of Dr. Abrego, the vision for a more diverse campus has become a reality and his dream of educational equity is being realized year after year. As stated by Dr. Abrego, “It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served Cal State Fullerton these 27 years and to have had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding staff. I thank you all for your dedication to students and wish you the best as you continue your service to the division of Student Affairs and the University. I will miss you all, the mighty Titans.”
Upward Bound Program

Leo Cota, Project Director, Upward Bound
Photos Provided by Upward Bound Staff

Upward Bound is a federally funded TRiO program designed to assist eligible high school students with preparation for a post-secondary education. The Upward Bound program has been in existence at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) since 1992, and was recently funded for an additional five years (2012-2017). Upward Bound works in collaboration with four high schools in the Santa Ana Unified School District: Century High School, Saddleback High School, Santa Ana High School, and Valley High School. Beginning in the 2012-2013 academic school year, the Upward Bound program will expand services from 60 students to 87 students.

The central goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants successfully complete high school and enroll in and graduate from higher educational institutions. The Upward Bound program focuses on academic achievement, career exploration, financial aid assistance, and exposure to various four-year universities.

The Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), is a six-week intensive summer program that runs from June 18th through July 27th at CSUF. For most participants, SEP is the first time they visit a university campus, the first time away from home without their parents, and the first time enjoying campus life. Overall, this summer program provides valuable exposure, networking, and academic experiences that help prepare students for higher education. The SEP academic curriculum includes Mathematics, English Literature/Composition, Japanese, Theater Arts, Leadership, and Engineering.

Thanks to the collaboration with the College of Engineering and Computer Science and Theater Arts at CSUF, Upward Bound high school students have the opportunity to experience an expanded variety of disciplines. In the engineering course, students are taking part in interactive hands-on projects; such as applying mathematics and science principles to design a bridge out of spaghetti. Students are also being exposed to the different branches of engineering. As a result to this exposure, some students are seriously considering pursuing a career in Engineering. A special thank you to Dr. Raman Unnikrishnan, Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Dr. Binod Tiwari, Assistant Professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Victor Delgado, Assistant Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science who were all instrumental in offering this course.

In addition, Craig Tyrl, a graduate student in the Master of Fine Arts in Theater Arts program, was hired as an instructor for the program and is teaching Upward Bound students about theater arts. Students are learning about literary works, acting techniques, terminology, in addition to viewing the play, Richard III. This course is possible thanks to the collaboration with David Nevell, Head of Voice/Movement and Masters of Fine Arts Program Coordinator and Dr. Joseph Arnold, Dean of the College of Arts. For most of the Upward Bound students, the Theater Arts and Engineering courses offered in SEP are their first exposure to these disciplines.
Welcome to the New Interim Athletics Director

Courtesy of Strategic Communications

Stephan R. Walk, Chair and Professor of Kinesiology and current Vice-Chair of the Academic Senate, has been appointed Interim Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).

President Mildred García announced the appointment Monday, July 9, 2012. Walk succeeds Brian Quinn, Athletics Director since 2002, who is transitioning to lead fundraising efforts on behalf of the University’s Athletics Program. Walk joined the CSUF faculty in 1994 and has served as chair of the Department of Kinesiology since 2007. A sport sociologist whose research focuses on risk-taking, pain and injury, as well as the sociology of sports medicine, Walk served as President of the largest academic society in his field, the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS), from 2005-06. Since 2004, Walk has served as the University’s appointed faculty athletics representative in its relationship with the NCAA and the Big West Conference concerning academic integrity, governance and rules compliance, and student-athlete welfare. Walk has served on the Academic Senate since 2008, on the Senate Executive Committee, and as Chair of the University Curriculum Committee and the Athletics Advisory Council. He earned a bachelor’s degree at Illinois State University and a master’s degree in kinesiology, as well as a dual-major doctorate in kinesiology and sociology from Michigan State University.

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.
Summer Bridge Program

Javier Ramirez, Acting Director Student Academic Services
Photos by Edward B. Salas

Offered through the department of Student Academic Services (SAS), the Summer Bridge program is an exciting opportunity for incoming Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) students to sample university life at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and to prepare for the rigors of university work. Summer Bridge is a six-week residential program in the months of June through August that include academic, cultural, recreational, and co-curricular activities. Participants live in the residential halls under the supervision of CSUF faculty and staff. All participants stay in residence from Sunday evening through Thursday or Friday afternoon during the entire session. All participants benefit from the personalized attention, individualized instruction, accessibility to campus resources, and an in depth connection with staff and fellow students.

The Summer Bridge program prepares EOP participants for the rigors of college. EOP is offered to students whose families face economic barriers and who need admissions and/or counseling services to succeed in college.

Students in the program enroll in English and mathematics courses to improve their skills and fulfill general education requirements. Additionally, these students get the chance to network with peers, learn about student clubs and organizations, and receive information about the benefits of campus life.

“The Summer Bridge program offers academic, cultural, and transitional support from high school to college,” said Dr. Kandy Mink Salas, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, “Students gain valuable information to help them meet academic and personal challenges so they can be successful in college.”

Students moved in on June 24th and will conclude the residential and academic components on August 2nd. There are currently 88 students participating in the Summer Bridge Program, an increase of 25 students from last year. The program has been in existence at Cal State Fullerton since 1987.
Art 4 Health

Misti Osmialowski, Executive Assistant
Photos Provided by Student Health & Counseling Center

The Art 4 Health Opening Reception and Art Auction held in October 2011 was a fun, exciting, and very successful event. Forty artists and 104 works of art were featured during our fifth-year event. Best of show awards were presented to a student, an alumni, and a faculty/staff member. Over 200 guests were welcomed and thirteen artworks were sold.

Join us for the the next opening reception for Art 4 Health VI “Healing in Disguise” on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

For more information, please visit the Art 4 Health website at: www.fullerton.edu/shcc/Art4Health.

Commencement 2012

Mimi Ko Cruz, Strategic Communications

More than 10,000 graduates and candidates for graduation participated in the May 19-20, 2012 commencement ceremonies. Nearly 40,000 friends and family members attended the weekend festivities in support of their graduating students. The events were marked by inspiring speeches and keynote addresses. Reflecting on his undergraduate and postgraduate experiences, President Willie Hagan advised the graduates to invest in their personal relationships, face their fears and not to procrastinate. Grads and guests were addressed by keynote speakers John Berry, the Director of the U.S. Office of Personal Management, and Martha J. Kanter, Undersecretary of Education.

Student speakers shared their experiences of sacrifice, support, and success during their undergraduate and graduate careers. Emily Nguyen Wieber, a McNair scholar, expressed her gratitude for the assistance she received from Cal State Fullerton, “When I transferred to Cal State Fullerton, I came to a whole new world of possibilities...It is here that I found faculty, mentors, and students who have lifted me up when I felt like it was too hard and led me to resources that helped me to excel.”