Spring 2009

California State University, Fullerton

**Spotlight on Student Affairs**

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**Edison Scholars: Recognizing Student Excellence**

Angela Meyers
Project Assistant
Dean of Students Office
Photo Credit: Dean of Students Office

Friday the 13th of February was a day of recognition and networking for the CSU/Edison Scholars. The CSU/Edison Transfer Scholarship is designed to increase the number of low income students earning degrees in technical fields. Program partners, Edison International and California State University, Fullerton provide students with a two-year scholarship based on students’ maintaining a 2.0 GPA and full-time enrollment.

CSU Fullerton currently has 23 scholars that have transferred from surrounding community colleges including Fullerton College, Santa Ana College, and Irvine Valley College. 11 of the 23 scholars attended the luncheon that brought together scholars, top administrators, and Edison International donors. Karolis Raudys a current scholar spoke at the luncheon about his desire to make a career with a company such as Edison International. Karolis is hoping to intern with the company this summer. Frank Quevedo, the Vice President of Equal Opportunity for Edison International, and the main donor for the CSU/Edison scholarship was in attendance. Quevedo told Raudys he would make sure he got an internship!

The luncheon was a big success. Scholarship recipients were able to make connections with CSU Fullerton President, Dr. Milton Gordon, and key members from Edison International. The Scholars greatly enjoyed the event, and all expressed their gratitude to both Edison International and CSU Fullerton for providing them with the two-year scholarship.

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The current CSU/Edison Scholars with President Milton A. Gordon and Edison International leaders. (Bottom row, left to right) Arpitaben Patel, Allison Rodriguez, Claudia Rodriguez. (Back row, left to right) Nicholas Wood, Micheal Laidlaw, President Milton A. Gordon, Edison International Vice President for Equal Opportunity Frank Quevedo, Edison International Corporate Representative for Public Affairs Fernando de Necochea, Miguel Vera, Karolis Raudys, Morgan Hackett.
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 highlights of the Guardian Scholars Program recently recognized by the Child Welfare League of America. The Guardian Scholars Program is dedicated to supporting ambitious, college-bound students exiting the foster care system by providing a comprehensive program that contributes to the quality and depth of the student's university experience. As the first-ever recipient of the National Fostering Educational Success Award, the University and the program were recognized for exceptional leadership and demonstrated commitment to providing foster youth with a learning and living environment that is healthy, safe, nurturing and supportive of their ability to successfully complete post-secondary education. Also in this edition you will learn about the generosity of our student-athletes who have a long history of success both on the playing field and in the community. Cal State Fullerton's diamond teams—men's baseball and women's softball—have a long standing relationship with local youth leagues.

Students are at the forefront of Cal State Fullerton. This time of the academic year features a multitude of student activities. The University Leadership Conference hosted by Leadership & Multicultural Development Programs in the Dean of Students Office sponsored the annual event which drew over 250 student participants. Included in the day were keynote speakers, skill-building workshops, a community service drive, awards and an involvement fair. Student Life Programs & Services hosted the 12th annual Student Life Achievement Awards with a theme of "Lights, Camera, Action" to recognize the Student Organization of the Year, Faculty Adviser of the Year, Staff Adviser of the Year, Community Service award and the ACE Student of the Year. Finally, the Volunteer & Service Center hosted the 5th annual Social Justice Summit. With nearly 600 attendees, the event was coordinated along with student volunteers who put in countless hours during fall 2008 and spring 2009. The event featured 25 workshops on issues of human rights, environmental concern, oppression and inequality in our local, national and global communities. In this edition, you will also read about the background and accomplishments of one of the senior leaders in the division. Dr. Ryan Alcantara speaks about why he enjoys his role as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs.

Finally, as we near the end of the 2008-2009 academic 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.
Cal State Fullerton’s diamond teams, men’s baseball and women’s softball, have a long history of success on the playing field and both programs have been equally active giving back to their community. Both programs have long-standing relationships with local youth leagues and each sponsors special events. Softball recently conducted “Power in Pink” Day in conjunction with its opening Big West Conference series against Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on March 28, 2009 to support breast cancer research and awareness. Fans were encouraged to wear pink to Anderson Family Field and fundraising activities were staged to benefit the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. A total of $1,346 was raised through donations and silent auctions. Titans swept the doubleheader with 2-0 and 5-3 victories.

For the eleventh consecutive year the Cal State Fullerton baseball team hosted a free clinic for developmentally disabled children at Goodwin Field on May 30, 2009. Kids of the Miracle League (Challenger Little Leaguers also welcomed) and their parents are annually hosted on the field by the entire roster of players and coaches for a two-hour long clinic and pizza dinner. Over the years, the youngsters have become some of the collegians’ most loyal fans and they return to many games at Goodwin Field.

For more information on this year’s Miracle League clinic, please call the baseball office at (657) 278-3789.
University Leadership Conference
“The Building Blocks of Leadership...
Be the Architect of Change”

Juanita Razo
Associate Dean of Students
Leadership and Multicultural Development Programs
Dean of Students Office
Photos Credit: Jung Kim

Cal State Fullerton hosted its annual University Leadership Conference on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Over 250 students participated. This year’s conference featured two keynote speakers, six skill-building workshops, a community service drive, awards, and an involvement fair.

Closing speaker, former California Supreme Court Justice and civil rights leader Cruz Reynoso spoke about becoming a leader who influences social change. Tim Gard, a nationally recognized humorist and stress reduction coach shared how humor can be used to deal with the challenges of leadership. Six workshops focused on stress management, ethical decision making, generational differences, visionary leadership, and conflict management. The workshops provided participants with the building blocks (skills) needed to become effective leaders.

The conference also featured a community service project where participants and CSUF community members were asked to donate school supplies to benefit the Step Ahead Project coordinated by the Volunteer and Service Center. Over 1,000 individual items were collected and donated to Kings Elementary School in Santa Ana.

The conference also recognized two outstanding student leaders and an organization for their contributions on campus and in the greater community. Awards recipients included: Carmen Drummond (Titan Leadership Award), and Rachel Kha (Priscilla Oaks Scholarship). The Titan Spotlight Award was given to the EMBRACE program which stands for Educating Myself for Better Racial Awareness and Cultural Enrichment. At the end of the day, many conference participants enjoyed the Men’s basketball game against UCI as part of CSUF’s Homecoming festivities.

The conference is one of many student leadership training programs offered at Cal State Fullerton. To learn about other programs and events, contact or visit the Dean of Students Office in TSU-235.
Spotlight On...

Dr. Ryan Alcantara

Lea M. Jarnagin
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Vice President for Student Affairs Office
Photos Credit: Jaime E. Hamilton

“Get Involved” is more than a mere slogan for Ryan Alcantara. His passion for co-curricular involvement started before college, during his high school years. Whether running cross country track or participating in student organizations, Ryan has always found out-of-class involvement more interesting than academics. That’s not to say that Ryan wasn’t a good student. From high school and beyond at UC Riverside, the University of Connecticut and finally USC, Ryan has always believed a balance between academics and co-curricular experience is important. While his undergraduate college years would prove this balance challenging, it was his involvement as a student leader at UC Riverside that cemented Ryan’s future professional path; a path that has lead him to his role as Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs at California State University, Fullerton where he oversees the areas of budget, human resources and technology for the division.

Raised in Southern California, Ryan completed his bachelor’s degree at UC Riverside in four years despite getting involved during his freshman year. His first official involvement came when he joined the Latinos in Science club. A new organization on campus, Ryan was quickly encouraged to apply for the Associated Students Program Board by a fellow club member. Although he was unsure what he was applying for, Ryan’s leadership skills were quickly recognized after his first year on the board when he was selected to serve as the AS Program Board Chair. Ryan draws an interesting parallel between his current role as the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and his role as program board chair. As in his current role, his efforts included supporting programming efforts of others while overseeing contracts and budgets.

Ryan’s early leadership involvement with the ASI at UC Riverside led to his appointment to the student recreation center board of governors during the construction phase of the facility. In total, Ryan served for two years on the board, including a term as chair. It was this involvement where Ryan learned some of his early political lessons. Usage of the facility by constituents on campus became a hot-button issue during Ryan’s tenure as board chair. When the Chancellor overturned the board’s decision regarding use policies, Ryan learned important lessons from student affairs professionals who served as advisors. As stated by Ryan, “I learned lots of lessons on what not to do” from the dynamics of the relationship between student leaders involved in the recreation center project and the university administration. His interest in pursuing a career in student affairs was cemented as a result of his experience and he became determined to become part of the administration to better represent student interests and needs.

After graduating from UC Riverside, Ryan looked out-of-state for graduate school experiences. He attended the University of Connecticut where he continued to be highly involved. In addition to working in student activities, Ryan helped to establish the Latino Graduate Student Association, served on the Graduate Student Senate, and was even recognized as the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center Volunteer of the Year. While he enjoyed the east coast, even the cold winters, Ryan returned home in 1997 to start his first professional position out of graduate school at Cal State Fullerton as a half-time Greek advisor in the then named Office of Student Life. When asked what he is most proud of during his tenure in this role, Ryan speaks of the community meetings he organized to develop positive working relationships between students and police and community members. Other opportunities quickly opened up, these

Personal:
- Married to Suzanne
- Two sons, Vincent, age 4 and Steven, age 1
- Born in Los Angeles
- Enjoys running – has completed 5 marathons

Education:
- BS in Psychobiology from UC Riverside
- MA in Educational Leadership from University of Connecticut
- PhD in Public Administration from USC

Areas he oversees:
- Budget
- Human Resources
- Technology

His first job:
- Worked construction with his father while growing up
- First job in college was as a student assistant in the Student Life Office

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With nearly 600 attendees, the Volunteer & Service Center’s 5th Annual Social Justice Summit held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 was the biggest to date. Student volunteers put in countless hours planning for the event starting in fall 2008. The event featured 25 workshops on issues of human rights, environmental concern, oppression and inequality in our local, national and global communities. Internationally known keynotes/spoken word artists, Jerry Quickley and Carlos Andrés Goméz, brought home the event’s theme, “Resist Ignorance, Provoke Thought, Incite Change” through their poignant presentations. In a new venture, a Silent Art Auction was held in conjunction with the Summit bringing themes of social justice and art together for a unique exhibition. Summit attendees not only received valuable education, but learned about what they can do to make a difference on issues of social justice starting now!

The students and staff who brought the 5th Annual Social Justice Summit to life celebrate the completion of another successful day of education, empowerment and action.

Alcantara
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included serving as advisor for ASI elections, overseeing the university leadership conference and student life orientation, and serving on the committee to re-develop the University Honors Program.

In February of 2001, Ryan’s path led him to serve as the Director of Honors & Scholars Support Services on campus. There, he worked closely with what Ryan calls “some outstanding faculty” with whom he forged strong working relationships. This opportunity helped him to learn how important it is for student affairs professionals to serve as ambassadors of the profession. In April of 2005, Ryan’s leadership was recognized once again when he was invited to move to New Student Programs to become the Associate Dean of the department. Having served as a New Student Orientation leader as an undergraduate, Ryan welcomed the return to student life. Ryan greatly enjoyed being a part of the NSP team, speaking highly of the “amazing staff and students who are truly dedicated to serving students.”

January of 2008 brought Ryan to his current position. When asked about his preparation for his current position, Ryan reflected that the combination of his PhD in Public Administration along with his professional background provides an ideal fit. He is a strong proponent of the value of diversification in degrees. When asked what he enjoys the most about his role as assistant vice president, Ryan remarked “I enjoy the puzzles of situations that come across my desk. It keeps things interesting.”

Dr. Ryan Alcantara
Student Life Achievement Awards

Maricela Alvarado
Coordinator, Student Life Programs and Services
Dean of Students Office
Photo Credit: Members of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.

On April 8, 2009 Student Life Programs and Services hosted the 12th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards with a theme of “Lights, Camera, Action”. The awards ceremony featured five awards, a red carpet entrance and student performances. The awards included Student Organization of the Year, Faculty Adviser of the Year, Staff Adviser of the Year, Community Service award and ACE Student of the Year. The Student Organization of the Year was given to Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc. This organization has successfully demonstrated philanthropic community service on and off campus, they have collaborated with other organizations and worked closely with Student Life Programs and Services to ensure that they follow policies and procedures. They also took home the Community Service award. Each member demonstrated an averaged of over 28 community service hours. Nick Katz, the advisor for Gamma Phi Beta was awarded the Staff Advisor of the Year award and Shelli Wynants from Child and Adolescents Studies Student Association was awarded the Faculty Advisor of the Year award for the second consecutive year. The ACE student of the year was awarded to Austin Nation, who completed a co-curricular achievement record that reflected his co-curricular involvement such as leadership positions, activities in student organizations, awards/scholarships, community service and academic research. All students, members of student organizations and advisors are highly encouraged to nominate themselves for future awards.

Lea M. Jarnagin
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Vice President for Student Affairs Office

Guardian Scholars Program Receives National Honor

Lea M. Jarnagin
Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Vice President for Student Affairs Office

The Cal State Fullerton Guardian Scholars Program was selected earlier this year as the first-ever recipient of the Child Welfare League of America’s (CWLA) National Fostering Educational Success Award. The program, which is dedicated to supporting the college aspirations of former foster youth, is part of the Division of Student Affairs. The Guardian Scholars program is committed to supporting ambitious, college-bound students exiting the foster care system by providing a comprehensive program that contributes to the quality and depth of the student’s university experience. Program staff serve 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.

The distinguished award was given in recognition of the University’s exceptional leadership and demonstrated commitment to providing foster youth a learning and living environment that is healthy, safe, nurturing, and supportive of their ability to successfully complete post-secondary education. Since 1920, the CWLA has been the nation’s pre-eminent organization dedicated to ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable children are protected from harm and have tools and resources they need to grow into healthy and happy adults. It is the only organization with members from both public and private agencies.

Selection criteria for the award includes, but is not limited to, embracing a youth development philosophy, providing financial aid to assist with educational expenses as well as additional financial supports to bridge the financial gap many foster youth face in meeting day-to-day living expenses; offering counseling, tutoring and educational supports to foster academic success; and creating opportunities for leadership and engagement. Program leaders were recognized at the CWLA 2009 National Conference in Washington, DC on February 24th. Attending the program were alumnus Ron Davis, founder and supporter of the program; Scholars Christopher Andrade and Tarae Graves; Grace Johnson, Program Director; and Giulii Kraemer, Program Coordinator. The campus program also received a $2,500 donation from the national organization. “This award is significant...Ron Davis has devoted much of his time and energy to make sure children who were raised in the foster care system have the opportunity to receive a college education and to contribute to the community as successful young adults,” said Howard Wang, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs who oversees the program and called it an honor to receive the national recognition.

Maricela Alvarado
Coordinator, Student Life Programs and Services
Dean of Students Office
Photo Credit: Members of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.; Maricela Alvarado, Coordinator of Student Life Programs and Services; Gina Garcia, Coordinator for STEM Transfer Student Service.

Members of Lambda Theta Alpha Latin Sorority, Inc.; Maricela Alvarado, Coordinator of Student Life Programs and Services; Gina Garcia, Coordinator for STEM Transfer Student Service.
KinderCaminata - Tuffy Goes to College

Dr. Esiquio Uballe  
Associate Dean of Students  
Student Life Programs and Services  
Dean of Students Office  
Photos Credit: KinderCaminata Board of Directors

On Friday March 27, 2009 Tuffy joined hundreds of Kindergarten kids who visited Santa Ana College to learn more about going to college. Dr. Esiquio Uballe, Associate Dean of Students and a board member of KinderCaminata along with our very own Tuffy mascot were there to welcome the kids, their parents and teachers. Cal State Fullerton has been a long time supporter of this event and has a history of supporting events geared toward early awareness of attending college. This year the Dean of Students Office and our Educational Partnership Office contributed funds to help offset the cost of transporting the kids to college campuses. The event carried the historical theme inspired by Cesar Chavez “Si Se Puede” translated to “Yes We Can”. Children arrived on campus and were greeted by community college student volunteers who cheered as students were unloaded and filed in with smiling faces in anticipation of what they would learn. Hosted by area community colleges, the kids experienced their first visit to college campuses across Southern California. An estimated 4,500 Kindergarten children have participated since 1993. The Educational Partnership Office also sponsors “Kids to College” where elementary age children visit Cal State Fullerton to learn more about attending college.

KinderCaminata was developed to provide children, many of them from low-income and first generation college families, exposure to the reality of one day going to college and achieving a college education. The event that targets local area schools encourages Kindergarteners and motivates them to become whatever they aspire to in the future. KinderCaminata also encourages parents to accompany their children on the visit to community college campuses, many of them also new to the college environment.

School children are introduced to career opportunities and informational and educational displays by community college faculty and staff, local public servants and county and municipal employees through hands-on demonstrations and exhibits. Participants including firefighters, law enforcement, and health professionals volunteered their time to demonstrate the careers available as a result of a college education. The primary goal of KinderCaminata is to inspire and plant a seed in the minds of these young children to aspire towards a college education. The event culminates in a parade where children chant “I am going to college!” “Si Se Puede!” and are treated afterwards to a lunch of milk and peanut butter sandwiches.

The following community colleges have participated; Cypress, Fullerton, Golden West, Santa Ana & Santiago Canyon. KinderCaminata has served the following school districts: Anaheim City, Buena Park, Centralia, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach City, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Los Alamitos, Newport-Mesa, Ocean View, Orange, Placentia-Yorba Linda, Santa Ana, Savanna, Tustin and Westminster.

For more information on KinderCaminata or to learn more about this event feel free to contact Dr. Esiquio Uballe, Associate Dean of Students and member of the board of directors of KinderCaminata at euballe@fullerton.edu.

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