Spring 2011

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A Message from the Director

For those students that graduated this year and were able to attend the EOP graduate reception on June 8, we really enjoyed celebrating with you and recognizing your many accomplishments and success at CSUSB. I encourage all of you to think back to when you first stepped onto this campus and acknowledge just how far you have come. We are extremely proud of you. Please know that your EOP family will always be here for you, even long after graduation.

For those continuing student who are planning on attending summer school, summer financial aid applications are now available on the CSUSB Financial Aid webpage. I urge you to submit your application soon and to visit our office for assistance in selection of your summer coursework.

Remember to stay connected with EOP, your major department and the great services the university has to offer. We are here to help. Wishing you a successful spring quarter and enjoyable summer break!

Sincerely,

Did You Know?

Undergraduate students must request a Graduation Requirement Check (grad check) at the Office of Records, Registration and Evaluations (UH-171) when you intend to graduate, as early as after you have completed 135 units towards your degree. To avoid late fees, the grad check should be filed by the established deadlines listed below. For more information, please visit Records, Registration & Evaluations.

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<th>Graduation Term</th>
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Staff Spotlight: Velda Rodriguez
EOP ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Why did you initially come to work for EOP?
I accepted a temporary position in EOP and I liked what EOP represented and how it helps students. I was offered a permanent position and I have been with EOP for more than 12 years. I enjoy working with the EOP staff and students.

What did you do before EOP?
I worked for a company that develops software for a hospital information system.

What are some of your hobbies and interests?
I like to sew, especially quilting. I love my pets. I have two dogs, Rosie and Sophie, and one cat named Kitty.

If you could pick anywhere, where would you pick as your next travel destination?
I am not much of a traveler, I am more of a home body, but given the opportunity I would like to visit Italy, Spain and Greece.

What would you like our students to know about you?
I am proud to be a grandma! I have four wonderful grandkids and two great-grandsons.

If you had one piece of advice for our students, what would it be?
Don’t give up, think positive. The mind is a powerful tool.

What is your favorite quote?
This quote is from my mother, Carmen Rodriguez:
“El que come y cante loco se levanta.”

* Velda cares a lot about our students. I remember one time a student came in and was very upset. She asked for a hug and Velda didn’t hesitate or say wait for your counselor to come back from lunch. She immediately got up and gave the student a hug."
ANITA BARRAGAN

“Velda’s stories are too funny! If I could, I would bottle her as a stress reliever and take her three times a day.”
LILY ALDAMA

Advisor’s Corner: Grade Forgiveness
By Tristan Garcia

Did you know that if you repeat a class, you are allowed to “forgive” your first grade with your second grade through the grade forgiveness process, also called “Discounting of Repeated Grades.” Here is what you should know:

1. In order to take advantage of grade forgiveness, you must repeat the exact same class. For example, if you took ENG 170 and failed it, you must repeat ENG 170 to be able to use grade forgiveness, not TA 160 or ENG 111, which also fulfill the same GE requirement.

2. You must repeat the class here. Grades for classes repeated at a community college for example, cannot replace the grade of your first attempt at CSUSB; they can only be averaged.

3. You may only repeat classes in which you earned a grade of “C-” or lower.

4. A class may be repeated for grade forgiveness no more than two times.

5. Since you are only allowed 24 units of grade forgiveness during your undergraduate tenure, grade forgiveness does not happen automatically; a “Petition for Grade Forgiveness” must be filed with the Office of Records and Registration to request that a class be discounted. When it is processed, the new grade will replace the former grade when calculating your GPA; however, the first attempt will remain on the transcript with a footnote indicating the course has been repeated. The first attempt will not be calculated in the GPA or units earned.

6. For more information, please visit http://rre.csusb.edu/records/discofrgrades.html
EOP Alumni Chapter

The EOP Alumni Chapter (EOPAC) continues to work hard to support current and future EOP students. Currently EOPAC has just closed its filing period for the 2011-2012 book awards. We had a very positive response from students and look forward to reviewing all applications. Thank you to all students for your time and effort in completing the book award application. Good luck to all applicants!

Fundraising continues to be one of EOPAC’s top priorities. On Nov. 20, TGIF in San Bernardino hosted an EOPAC fundraising event. Students, staff, family, and EOP alumni purchased a delicious meal and enjoyed the company of family and friends while contributing to EOPAC. A percentage of the proceeds from the day were donated to support EOP students by way of book awards and scholarships.

EOPAC members also strive to stay connected to the campus community. Most recently, they represented the EOP Alumni Chapter at CSUSB’s Grad Days and EOPAC secretary, Cheryl-Marie Hansberger, presented at the recent CSUSB Alumni Association event, “Taking the Mystery Out of Getting a Job,” on May 7.

For more information about EOPAC, contact Anita Barragán, EOPAC advisor, at 909.537.5042.

Current Club Officers:
President - Cathy Cosgrove
Vice President - Jasmine Ocegueda
Treasurer - Sharon Awad

CSUSB’s EOP says farewell to EOP counselor and Foster Youth Program coordinator, Tristan Garcia!
Tristan is greatly missed by her students and coworkers! We wish her the best of luck and know that CSU East Bay’s EOP students are in good hands!

“I have been truly blessed to be able to work with and get to know each and every one of you. Thank you for making my experience here a truly enriching one. You will be missed!”
~Tristan Garcia

Congratulations to Mario Baeza, EOP counselor and admissions coordinator, for being recognized as CSUSB’s 2011-2012 Employee of the Year!

EOP     Student Association

The EOPSA (Educational Opportunity Program Student Association) Club is affiliated with the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) at California State University, San Bernardino. The EOPSA Club is a charitable, non-profit organization. Mario Garcia, EOP counselor, serves as advisor of this student organization. The main goals of the EOPSA is to help serve under-privileged students and children and raise awareness about the needs of students on campus and in the community. The club plans to conduct fundraisers, such as opportunity drawings and gift sales, and have plans to support foster youth programs in the local community.

The EOPSA Club invites all students at CSUSB to join in developing good leadership skills and experiences. Interested students can contact eopstudentassociation@yahoo.com. We meet every month to team build and discuss activities.

Current Club Officers:
President - Cathy Cosgrove
Vice President - Jasmine Ocegueda
Treasurer - Sharon Awad

EOP Student Association

PHOTO BY ROBERT WHITEHEAD

Congratulations to Mario Baeza, EOP counselor and admissions coordinator, for being recognized as CSUSB’s 2011-2012 Employee of the Year!
Growing up in Compton, Calif., Julian Alcazar never imagined himself graduating from Cal State San Bernardino, much less getting a summer internship with the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. Now the Hemet, Calif., resident not only completed the internship, but has landed a full-time position pursuing his dream of working in higher education policy.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in sociology from CSUSB, Alcazar planned to go straight into the master's degree program at the university. But all that changed in what seemed like a whirlwind of events between his last term of college and graduation. Through a combination of volunteerism, hard work and fate, Alcazar landed an unpaid summer internship with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Subsequently, the summer internship was extended through the end of 2010 and became a paid internship. Recently, he accepted a full-time, paid staff position in the Office of Innovation and Improvement as management and programming analyst and assumed his new duties in December 2010.

The road to college and D.C. has not been smooth. While Alcazar's mother was struggling to raise two children on one income, Julian offered to quit high school and work full time to help support the family. But his mother would not hear of it. Until then, Alcazar said he had not considered going to college, because no one had ever mentioned nor encouraged it. When he saw how challenging it was for his mother to support a family of three, he started thinking about furthering his education with his mother's encouragement.

He graduated from West Valley High School in Hemet in 2005, attended Mt. San Jacinto Community College and received an associate of science degree in math and science. In 2008, Alcazar transferred to CSUSB to complete his undergraduate degree. Besides his commitment to his academic studies, Alcazar has been involved in volunteer service on campus and in his Hemet community. As an active member of campus student groups such as Latino Business Students Association, MEChA and Delta Sigma Chi fraternity, he has logged hundreds of hours of community service through fundraising, philanthropic activities, freeway beautification and tutoring younger students in math, science, English and Spanish in the Hemet area. Alcazar was also an active member of CSUSB's Association of Latino Faculty, Staff and Students and served on the planning committee for the inaugural Latino Education and Advocacy Day summit at CSUSB last spring.

He worked tirelessly promoting and marketing the LEAD event at area educational conferences, and assisted with logistics, technology and social media. It was at the summit that he met keynote speaker Juan Sepulveda, director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. They quickly formed a bond and remained in touch. As graduation neared, Alcazar was busy applying for graduate school and deciding which career path to follow. He said Sepulveda's guidance was instrumental in helping him choose a career path. By the time graduation day came, Alcazar had been offered an internship in Sepulveda's Washington, D.C., office, which would arrange housing at George Washington University - at his own expense. That presented an economic challenge since the internship was unpaid. "But I couldn't pass up the opportunity," said Alcazar. "I would figure it all out when I got there."

During his internship, he assisted with outreach to Hispanic-serving institutions across the nation, gathering and analyzing data to determine which schools produce the most Latinos in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs. Alcazar's new duties entail reviewing and managing grants issued to non-profit agencies and kindergarten-through-12th grade school districts. "Part of my job will be to ensure compliance that funds are being used properly for the purpose intended," he said.

Although at first it was difficult to move so far away from his family, he says he's adjusted well and is amazed at all there is to discover in Washington. During a recent visit to the EOP office, Alcazar shared that there are moments where he is still in awe. "I can't believe I get to play basketball with the president." Alcazar shared that President Obama loves to play basketball and will often play with the White House interns and staff. Alcazar attributes his determination for success to the mentors he encountered at CSUSB, such as EOP counselor Mario Baeza and education professor Enrique Murillo, who took him under their wing and encouraged him to stay on track.

"I owe a lot to CSUSB and will always remember that there is where I began my journey into higher education." Alcazar plans to pursue a master's degree in higher education with an emphasis on policy analysis, and has already applied to Georgetown University, George Washington University, George Mason University and University of Maryland.
EOP Scholars are EOP students that completed a minimum of 12 units and earned a 3.5 GPA or higher in fall 2010 and/or winter 2011.

Keep up the great work!
IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Quarter 2012 priority registration .......................................................... May 26–June 17, 2011
Memorial Day Holiday observed Campus closed ........................................... May 28–30, 2011
Last day of Spring classes ................................................................................. June 3, 2011
Spring 2011 final examinations ....................................................................... June 14–18, 2011
Commencement ................................................................................................. June 16, 18 & 19, 2011
First day of Summer 2011 regular and 6W1 classes ....................................... June 22, 2011
Summer 2011 6W1 Last day to add classes via MyCoyote ............................... June 24, 2011
Spring 2011 grades available via MyCoyote ................................................... June 27, 2011
Summer 2011 Regular Last day to add classes via MyCoyote ......................... June 28, 2011
Summer 2011 6W1 Census: Last day to drop classes without record ............. June 30, 2011
4th of July observed—Campus Closed ........................................................... July 1–4, 2011
Summer 2011 Regular Census: Last day to drop classes without record ...... July 13, 2011
Last day of Summer 2011 6W1 classes ........................................................ July 27, 2011
Summer 2011 6W1 final exams ....................................................................... July 28 & Aug 1, 2011
First day of Summer 2011 6W2 classes ......................................................... Aug. 2, 2011
Summer 2011 6W2 Last day to add via MyCoyote .......................................... Aug. 3, 2011
Summer 2011 6W2 grades available .............................................................. Aug. 8, 2011
Summer 2011 6W2 Census: Last day to drop classes without record ......... Aug. 10, 2011
Last day of Summer 2011 Regular classes .................................................... Aug. 31, 2011
Last day of Summer 6W2 classes ................................................................. Sept. 6, 2011

SUMMER FINANCIAL AID

If you are planning to attend summer school, don’t forget to apply for summer financial aid!!