Welcome new and old: The Back to School Edition

By ERIC BROWN
Managing Editor

Though the heat may still be lingering, summer for both students and faculty has officially ended. If you are reading this, it means school is in session, and with it, a new year’s worth of budget woes, accolades and graduation concerns to consider.

Coming off one of the most turbulent financial years in CSUSB’s history, the furloughs that plagued the CSU last year have ended, albeit without future funding or reform, but the campus closure days and vacant hallways could reappear.

CSUSB weathered the financial burden of last year with surprising little loss of momentum, despite the frustrating cut in class sections, but the outlook on this year seems to at least be stable, if not improving, due in part to the governor’s restoration of upward of $300 million to the CSU system for the 2010-2011 school year back in May. Despite this, we have seen a rise in tuition fees, voted on by the Board of Trustees back in June, but at least classes seem to be more readily available this fall.

For now, a balance has seemingly been struck between rising tuition and the absence of furloughs. This academic year should see more students reaching their goals and less people breaking open piggy banks.

President Dr. Albert K. Karim’s annual Convocation address, given September 20, to staff and faculty outlined his plans for the university for the coming year. You can visit coyotechronicle.com for a recap of the address.

Still growing, CSUSB has been able to garner some national recognition as a leading establishment in higher education.

U.S. News & World Report has ranked CSUSB as number 22 on its list of Top Regional Public Universities in the West in its 2011 America’s Best Colleges guidebook, published last month.

Additionally, the Princeton Review honored CSUSB as one of its “Best in the West” universities, and was featured on the Forbes list of “America’s Best Colleges.”

Aside from what CSUSB has accomplished in the past year, the following are some important and interesting dates to keep in mind as school begins:

First, the final day to add open classes without permission is Sept. 29 via MyCoyote while the Census Day (last day to drop/add with permission) is Oct. 13.

Second, a good place to visit for both new and old students is the Resource Round-Up being held in the Santos Manuel Student Union on Oct. 20, where campus entities will be providing information on resources available to the students.

Third, for those looking to graduate in the Spring (June 2010), grad checks are to be filed by Nov. 1, further information can be acquired at the office of Records, Registrations, and Evaluations.

Fourth, something interesting that most students might not know about is the Holiday Dinner held each year in the Commons, scheduled for Nov. 17. The Student Union Program Board will be providing dinner for the first 200 students that show up. Interested students must bring in a can of food to gain admission.

Lastly, we have Final Exams week which will begin on Dec. 7 and end on Dec. 11.

With the past behind us, CSUSB and the Chronicle look to what this new quarter will bring as we deal with the budget crunch, increasing enrollment and upholding our academic standards.

No more big bucks lost buying books

By MARYBONE SHELL
News Editor

Coyotes howled over the exorbitant costs of textbooks, and CSUSB listened.

CSU campuses continue to be among the most cost-effective options in California for those seeking higher education, and in spite of recent fee increases, they are taking added measures to alleviate some of the practical and financial woes of students by making textbooks more accessible and affordable.

“Affordability and access go hand in hand,” said Steve Dixon, president of the California State Student Association (CSSA) earlier this year at the joint legislative hearing on the Master Plan for Higher Education. He continued, “You can’t have one without the other.”

The Textbook Transparency Act that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger approved in 2007 became effective in January of this year.

The assembly bill, also known as AB 1548, forces publishers to disclose the wholesale prices and list revisions made to textbook editions upon request to professors who are otherwise unaware of them. Knowing how much books cost can aid the decision-making process for professors who are mindful of their students who may be financially strapped.

CSUSB is one of five campuses currently participating in a digital licensing pilot program in which students can buy electronic versions of their textbooks for a fraction of the price. For students who are hoping to save money and a few trees along the way, downloading their texts may be a viable option.

“Students can highlight, write and bookmark pages and do all the normal things they would with books,” said Sharon Alexander, the textbook manager at Coyote Bookstore.

For students who want a more hands-on experience when it comes to their books, renting textbooks at the campus bookstore is now a reality for certain classes at a relatively nominal price. Starting this summer, students were able to rent select books at 45 percent of the cover price. Writing in the margins and highlighting are permissible under the contract. Water damage and other severe destruction, however, are not.

“[Online] pre-registration is recommended,” said Chelsi Chastain, a student employee at the bookstore. She also cautions against those who wish to use texts for more than one quarter since they can only be rented on a quarterly basis.

An added perk includes being sent complimentary email reminders to renters as their due date approaches to avoid any processing and late fees. Books rented out this fall quarter will be due during finals week, on Dec. 11.

Renters also avoid the plight of being turned away if their book is discontinued.

“Even with buy backs, most people are paid 50% at most and that’s if they’re in pristine condition,” Chastain adds, making the rent-a-text program all the more beneficial.

Alexander again commented on the win-win scenario for both students and the bookstore when she said, “Sales have boosted and we’re getting back students who were all over the place looking for books.”

Whether students choose to buy, rent or download their books electronically, two advantages of using the campus bookstore are they can eliminate the shipping time and expenses otherwise required to receive their textbooks through various other websites.

The advent of renting and e-books, or using the convenience of the Coyote Bookstore should aid CSUSB students in not having to burn a hole in their savings to buy textbooks.
Navigating CSUSB
A quick guide on where to find helpful resources around campus, accompanied by our article on Pg. 3 entitled What’s at your college? by our Features editor and campus guru, Diana Cansino
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ince this is the Back to School Edition, it would only be logical to give you my official Back to School Exhortation. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. Or at least I think I do.

Before I bestow said wisdom upon you, allow me to welcome all of you new freshmen to the beautiful, lush, booming metropolis known as San Bernardino. Alright, maybe it’s not exactly lush, but at least it boasts one of the finest establishments in all of California—Cal State San Bernardino.

Don’t buy in to the lie that this is just a Cal State like the big-time UC guys want you to believe. Trust me, I went there! As an expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you. This is my fifth year of college, so being the expert that I am, I’ve got some wisdom to impart upon you.
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Arts & Entertainment

Year closes with high box office expectations

By RICHARD BOWIE
Executive Editor

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows (HP7) to be released November 11.

Quite possibly the most anticipated movie of the season, the first of the two-part conclusion to the film franchise is sure to please and tease movie-watchers. Following the plot of J.K. Rowling’s seventh and final book of the same name the movie adaptation follows the first part of the book with Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) and friends having to deal with a world in which “he who must not be named” has returned. Both the wizard and muggle worlds are darker as the beginning of the final book and film begin at arguably one of the lowest parts of the series, with our hero’s hopes and strength being questioned. The full extent of growth in both the characters and actors in HP7 will most probably be one of the most intriguing parts of the film as we see how far Harry has come, only to wait for the conclusion to the magical mystery that is Harry Potter comes to an end with the second portion, and final film to be released in July of 2011.

I Love You, Phillip Morris, to be released December 3.

After his seemingly happy life turned upside down by a violent car crash, small-town, family man Steven Russell (Jim Carrey) decides to live his life to fullest and embrace who he really is… a gay man. He leaves his family and moves to Miami, finds a boyfriend and lives in extravagance. When he realizes he can’t afford his new lifestyle, he becomes a con man, faking injuries and suing companies, to cover the bills. But his bad deeds catch up with him and he’s sent to prison. In the midst of yet another rock bottom, Steven’s life is changed for good when he finds true love in his cell mate, Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor). Renewed with a fresh sense of purpose, Steven’s goal is to escape prison with Phillip and do whatever he has to live the rest of their lives together.

Black Swan, to be released December 1.

The film stars Natalie Portman as Nina, a successful New York City ballerina who is top choice for a career-making lead in a production of Swan Lake. The pressure may prove to be more than she can handle though, as the production director soon decides to bring in an alternate, Lilly (Mila Kunis), who threatens not only Nina’s spot in the production, but her sanity. The film is already being critically acclaimed, being chosen to open the 2010 Venice Film and showed at the Toronto International Film Festival.”

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Intramurals back and better than ever

Recreational Sports provide one of the best and easiest study breaks to students looking to be more active

By JESUS ROMERO
Sports Editor

Get back into the swing of things, literally, with a renewed version of CSUSB Intramural sports. The Recreational Sports Department is offering five different sports throughout the week and even during multiple days for the Fall 2010 quarter. Volleyball, indoor soccer, basketball, softball and flag football are going to be offered Monday through Saturday for students looking to get their kicks in. A dodge ball and badminton tournament will also be held during the Fall quarter, to keep things interesting. The idea is to have a variety of sports for you to choose from, to enjoy, make some new friends, compete and have fun.

At the end of each intramurals there will be a champion team. The team will receive champion T-shirts proudly showing their success, aside from the usual bragging rights.

The sports are co-ed, so anyone can sign up to play. The Fall Season begins the week of Oct 4. Signing up is free and easy. Log on to the www.recспорts.csusb.edu and follow the step-by-step procedure, or go into the Recreation Center on campus. All sports are played on campus.

You don’t have to be a great athlete to play intramurals, nor do you have to know about the sport. If you’re a first timer, they will show you the ropes so you can be on the field in no time.

“It’s all about having fun and getting some exercise at the same time,” said Sports and Facilities Coordinator, Raul Gonzalez. “We want the students to get involved and also take advantage of the sports we have to offer.”

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