Finding myself at CSUSB

By MARYBONE SHELL
News Editor

When I wandered into CSUSB’s admissions and recruitment office three years ago, I was one of the lost and weary souls who still hadn’t figured it out. I had no clue where I was supposed to be, let alone what I was supposed to do with my life. If one of the goals in society is to produce well-rounded kids – I was definitely one of them. I had always done well in high school, both in scholastics and in various extracurricular activities. But who knew that being well-rounded would lead me into a perpetual state of confusion and indecisiveness after high school? Having diverse interests might seem like a good thing by convention, but it can really hamper the process of figuring out what you want to do in life, especially when you want to do it all.

I feel like the Madonna of higher education only I wasn’t trying to reinvent myself per se, I was trying to find myself. I probably changed colleges about as often as I changed my hairstyles. I probably tried different majors on as if I was shoe shopping, but nothing ever seemed to fit.

Imagine my surprise when I walked into the admissions office one fateful day and was handed a CSUSB brochure with “find yourself here” boldly printed on it. At first, there was a laugh and a snicker but then I realized that I had been to nearly every university, community college, and vocational school within a 25-mile radius except the one that was practically in my backyard and I still couldn’t get it right. So I thought to myself, “Why not?”

Part of the reason I was in the position I was in was because I had convinced myself that I no longer had what it takes. The endless possibilities that I once thought the world contained in high school seemed to dwindle down into mere impossibilities. I started college thinking I wanted to be a lawyer because I knew how proud it would make my family proud of me, so I became a Political Science major but...
To the Class of 2011, congratulations to you and good luck with all of your endeavors. To the Music program, thank you so much for everything you’ve done for me. To my family, thank you for believing in me. I love you all so much. The future is bright with all of us. Go Coyotes!

Thanks,
Tanisha LaShawn Henry

Jeffrey Hopkins
There is no greater Father’s Day gift than for you to graduate on this day. You are a fine young man with the world at your hands. We are proud!

-Aannie Hopkins

MaryRone Shell
I couldn’t have asked for a better replacement. Thanks for all the LONG hours and hard work put in, I highly appreciate it. I’m so proud of you, congratulations!

-Richard Bowie

Orlandria Brazier
With all your commitments at home, work and school, you amaze me. I can only imagine the bright future you have ahead. I’m proud to have worked with you.

-Eric Brown

Jesus Romero
Your nonstop dedication has made this paper all the better and has earned you Editor of the Year. You’re my boy “Blue.” Don’t ever stop pushing the envelope!

-Eric Brown

Diana Cansino
But also too as well too for nor yet but thought! I’m proud of the patient, controlled, Rancho Cucamonga residing woman you’ve become. We’re best friends!

-Richard Bowie

Coyote Chronicle

Senior Shout Outs

Coyote Chronicle.net

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FEELING THE SQUEEZE?

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something just didn’t feel right at the time.

It seemed like all my friends were in the social sciences and I had enjoyed all those classes, so I thought maybe I’d try Anthropology, Psychology, or Sociology, but these endeavors proved to be fruitless in terms of satisfaction.

I was at the end of the rope and was willing to sacrifice my dreams in favor of more practical pursuits.

I saw my aunt and uncle, who are both nurses, so I decided to try nursing and later respiratory therapy. Somehow, I knew that I wasn’t doing what I was supposed to do because I wasn’t happy.

It was my mentor, Kathleen Estrella, who told me that the thing I was supposed to do was something I already enjoyed doing and was naturally drawn to.

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The guidance of both admissions counselors and close friends encouraged me to pursue a degree in Communication Studies; a degree I had no idea lends itself to so many different career possibilities.

All the dreams I once had became attainable once again.

Listening to my inner voice and pursuing what it was that I truly wanted to study was perhaps one of the most pivotal decisions I have made in my life thus far.

To students in the midst of their educational haul whether it be long or short and for those who are like me and find themselves off the beaten track – first know who you are to know who you want to be. If you know what you want to do with your life, the means to get there will eventually appear.

Continued from Pg. 1

I can’t believe the time has come to finally write this! WOW! Where did these last five years go?

When I first came to San Bernardino I wondered what in the world I had gotten myself into. I had left my beautiful home in San Diego to come here?

Five years later, I am leaving this little town I have come to love and I don’t think I’m ready. My college years have been a roller coaster of ups and downs and plenty of all-nighters …and I wouldn’t change a single thing.

San Bernardino has given me the tools I need to succeed in life as well as the people I need by my side supporting me. To me, San Bernardino is more than a little city with a lot of wind; it has become a home away from home, and the people I have met here have changed my life completely.

I know they will be a part of my life forever. They are people I will invite to my wedding someday, ones I’ll keep in touch with no matter how far away I live, and one extra special person I will love forever.

There are so many people I need to thank for their support, starting with my parents … without them I would have never made it. Thank you both so much for your love and support (and money when I spent all mine on clothes) throughout these crazy years.

You both inspire me to dream as big as I can and be whatever I want to be.

Christian, thank you for always keeping an eye on me. We have had so much fun together and I definitely wouldn’t have ever stayed up here if it wasn’t for you. Thank you for always pushing me to be better and supporting me along the way.

J, we have come a long way from our first meeting at the YMCA and from those late nights at the Rustic. You have become my best friend and make me happier every day. Your sense of humor always keeps me laughing even through the worst of times. I can’t wait to see where we end up in this big world … if we can make it through this, we can make it through anything. I love you!

Kalynn and Melodie, thank you both for being the amazing women you are! There have been countless lunches, dinners, happy hours, and laughs! I love you both so much!

To my kind of ADPi’s, you all know who you are; I love and live for you girls every single day. Thank you for being a part of so many of my CSUSB memories.

PLAM!!

There are probably so many more people but I’m running out of room. THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU to everyone!!

There were times when I thought college couldn’t end soon enough and there were times when I never wanted it to end! Well, the end is here and I can’t wait to see where this crazy life will take me! WE DID IT!
A word from the California Faculty Association

An open letter to our community,

We the undersigned faculty of California State University, San Bernardino, are reaching out to our fellow community members to inform them about the current threat to public higher education and how it will affect all of us living in the Inland Empire. We hope you will join us in defending a precious community resource that has delivered personal, social, and economic success to thousands of families during our 45 years of existence.

CSUSB has educated today’s political and business leaders, nurses, teachers, civil servants, working professionals and countless others. We fear, however, that current trends threaten our ability to continue to offer students access to a high-quality, affordable education that will position them for success in the job market and not leave them laden with enormous student loan debts.

Since 2002, student fees at Cal States have increased by over 240%. This is an unprecendented tax on those who can least afford it. The state must stop hiking student fees to offset funding cuts to the Cal State system. By raising student tuition, we are limiting the ability of our students and their families to afford a college education.

In addition to fees, student access to an education at CSUSB is directly linked to funding from the state. At CSUSB, chronic underfunding has already meant reductions in faculty jobs, overcrowded classes, fewer available courses, and delays in student time to graduation. Last year, for the first time in its history, Cal State denied admission to 40,000 eligible students state-wide. At CSUSB, 1,500 eligible students were turned away. The prospect of additional budget cuts this year is very real. If the governor’s proposed tax extensions are not enacted, the Cal State system could suffer up to an additional $1 billion reduction in funding — this represents a quarter of the system’s budget! With a “cuts only” budget, we risk turning away thousands more from the CSU. Our elected leaders must find ways to see past partisan politics and do what’s best for our state’s future.

In these times of economic crisis people need more educational opportunities, not fewer. If we continue to diminish opportunities to attain a higher education, the future result will be a more undereducated and underpaid labor force, resulting in poor economic performance for our region and the state. It would mean additional stress on our local economy, and less tax revenue for our cities while needing more to create new public services, at a time when critical public services are also being drastically defunded.

For our part, California Faculty Association, the CSUSB faculty union, will do everything we can to ensure access to all those who wish to attend the university. This includes holding the CSU Chancellor accountable for decisions made in recent years to increase the numbers and salaries of top level administrators, as well as hire high-priced private consultants for pet projects, instead of prioritizing student instruction and services.

We need your help. California lawmakers must understand that higher education is not a cost but an economic benefit to our community. Every dollar invested in CSUSB results in more than four dollars in economic activity generated by our graduates. In these hard times, cutting funding to CSUSB is bad economic policy.

Together we have the power to protect CSUSB for present and future generations of students and their families. We urge you to stand with us and help us defend our University!

Please write or call your local representatives in state government and tell them that keeping CSUSB strong is essential to you, your children and future generations in our region. (Find your local legislator at: http://www.legislature.ca.gov/port-zipsearch.html) If we work together, we can ensure that CSUSB continues to serve our community. We must join together to protect our region’s most valuable asset.

Sincerely, CSUSB Faculty
Now enrolling for the Summer Special Session!

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For more information contact Britni Washington, Program Coordinator
E-Mail: bwash@csusb.edu • Phone: (909) 537-3152 • Office: FO-180

CSUSB MARC Program
Do you have questions about going to graduate school?
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CSUSB MARC Program
The CSUSB MARC Program (Minority Access to Research Careers) can help by providing peer mentoring for students in any health related major such as psychology, biology, chemistry, etc.

To set up a mentoring appointment contact: Britni Washington, Program Coordinator
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College is a place to live, lose, love and learn

By JUSTINE PLEMONS
Coyote Contributor and ASI President

Five years. 260 weeks. 1826 days. 43,919 hours, and my time at CSUSB has come to an end. The cliché holds true, time really does fly when you are having fun. The last five years have been one of the most influential, exciting, nerve racking, and terrifying experiences of my life.

In the moment I didn’t realize it but every professor, every grade, every boyfriend, and every friend shaped who I am. I am leaving CSUSB with more good memories than bad. I’ve left my mark on this campus; one that I can be proud of.

I’ve made mistakes. Actually, I’ve made a lot of mistakes. I’ve failed, succeeded and stumbled along the way but I always got back up (maybe not immediately, but I stood back up each and every time).

I am a firm believer that college is supposed to be the learning lab. What I learned is that the walls of this university are very forgiving. They allow you to fail, but they also allow you to reboot.

If you learn from this place, you might just take more than your degree away from CSUSB.

Take away memories you can smile and blush at. Take away adventures you can be proud to tell your kids and some best kept to yourself.

To those of you who have a little more time left to enjoy the spoils of college I say, sook this place up.

Do things outside of your comfort zone. If you make a fool of yourself, it won’t last long. Gossip goes as quickly as it comes, trust me.

I am proud as a leader, a follower, a friend, and an enemy at CSUSB. Regardless, I’m leaving with my reputation. People will hate and love you for your success, but if they’re still talking, I think you must be doing something right.

Nothing lasts forever, including college. I think that is the easiest lesson we learned the hard way.

Your undergraduate career is one of those journeys that not everyone is inclined to take.

I am days away from walking across the stage, and shaking CSUSB President, Dr. Albert Karnig’s hand and that not everyone is inclined to take.

I am a ASI family, SSMU family, EOP family, the ladies of Alpha Delta Pi, the gentlemen of Sigma Phi Epsilon and Sigma Chi, and my very closest friends: Thank you. These people all stood by my side as I succeeded and laid down with me as I wept.

Lastly I’d like to give credit to one last person -- myself; because all the talent, brains and support in the world would have meant anything without my drive and diligence to cross the finish line.

Thanks for the memories CSUSB, and remember -- stay classy.

By LOUIS PENNA
Opinions Editor

I remember when I was still in high school, and the dozen or so students that did not graduate in the intended and customary four years that almost all of the other students had done.

Granted, high school was as easy as the open note, open book, open laptop final I’ll take on Thursday in my [very] general education geology class; nonetheless, children were left behind.

These children, in my school, were usually the kids with the self-help abilities of a soon to be clubbed baby seal. They were usually ostracized after being left stranded by their previous class. They were “Super Seniors,” a title that seemed too mocking of oneself to be self originating.

In my head, I couldn’t understand it – simply showing up to class would deem someone a D at the very least, passing. The classes were practically spoon fed to you with a funnel.

Many students from CSUSB’s graduating class of 2011 can be deemed “super” or for fuck’s sake even “super-duper seniors.” According to the CSUSB Statistical Factbook, from 2005-2010, senior enrollment rose 12.6 percent while freshman enrollment only rose 3.7 percent.

CSUSB is currently accepting applications for the 2012 Winter Quarter but are not certain how many will be accepted due to another potential $500 million in budget cuts. If you originally intended graduating in four years but have experienced a non-coercive rearrangement of your graduation date, you may be the reason behind someone’s denial letter.

I am not trying to compare the kids in my high school that are now working dead end jobs to CSUSB graduates of 2011, but I’ll be the first to admit that I’ve felt helpless as a club munching baby seal here before.

Regardless of devastating budget cuts, this university’s number one priority should be getting degrees to students. Practically every decision concerning this university, should be constructed and decided based upon that commitment. Raising tuition 32 percent is not one of those decisions.

That principle should be agreeable considering that if you believe that every professor has the burning desire to educate as they should, and every student here takes classes with the goal of graduation in mind, that these two would work together cohesively towards that goal.

However, sometimes both fail at reaching the day when you get a piece of paper and a first-class ticket to the “real world” where you apparently lose all significance and job skills.

It’s easy to blame falling behind on financial woes and a busy schedule but these are the decisions you made, this is the experience you chose to have.

If you find yourself slipping in a class and in danger of failing, there are resources to help you. If the professor is worth half their salt they should be able to speak with you and you can specifically ask what you need to do to ensure you pass from that point forward.

It’s time to start wanting to stop to pay for a tuition that has risen 108.6 percent since 2006. It’s time to start raising your standards and by doing so help the future of not only this college, but of this state.

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2011, please go make something of yourselves and create jobs for the rest of us, as those of us who remain behind shall try and do the same as we set a foundation for the future.
Come out of your shell and live a little

By DIANA CANSINO
Features Editor

I started here at CSUSB in the Fall of 2009. I didn’t know anyone at school and at home in Victorville, I literally only had about two friends on a good day.

I went to all my classes; I sat in the back (preferably by the door) and did my best to avoid eye contact with teachers and students alike. I kept to myself, and for the life of me I detested when teachers assigned in-class activities and group projects. I didn’t want to attach myself like some blood sucking leach to people who already had their groups set.

Now, as I’m due to leave and enter what everyone refers to as “the real world” (apparently the one I live in now is fake?!) I’m glad to say that I’m not leaving the same girl, I don’t make myself invisible and sit in the corners of the class room, now nobody puts Diana in a corner!

I fought a lot with the idea of trying to make friends. I’ve found that as you get older it’s harder to establish friendships with people. They pretty much already have their set of friends, or so I thought. During these last couple of quarters I was able to meet some truly remarkable people that I’m sure will stick around even after graduation.

Sadly for me I came out of my shell a little later … like two quarters ago. But, when I did I realized there are a lot of people who appreciate my sarcastic witiness, and one-of-a-kind sense of humor.

I can’t say it’s easy to speak up if you’re the quiet type. I’m still working on it, but you’ve got to put yourself out there. Now, in my experience here at CSUSB, besides evolving as a person, I also learned a couple of key things.

So, before I leave I have some other tidbits of advice. If you need to blow off some steam always do so … just not on the fourth floor of University Hall, especially at night, where rather questionable characters wander the halls.

Always, always, always label your water and food. It’s not pretty when people drink your chilled water that was meant for you. In cases like this patience is a virtue. I learned that it’s not just the freshmen 15, it’s the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior years where you’re more susceptible to weight gain. All of them. So, pack a lunch.

Girls, bring an extra bag of clothes. I don’t know how many times “that time of the month” came and I was unprepared. I’d say don’t procrastinate, but let’s be realistic. You’re going to test your skills and wait until the last minute. In these cases, Starbucks ReadyBrew V8A saved my life, and it can do the same for you.

If you don’t have a job … just get one. Asking your parents for an advance in your allowance is the worst.

Congratulations class of 2011!
From the Coyote Chronicle Staff