Coyote Chronicle

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THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT VOICE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO FOR 44 YEARS
Monday, June 11, 2012

SPECIAL GRADUATION ISSUE

2012
A howling CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR’S CLASS!

Including: 2011 Chronicle Grads, where are they now?

Coyotes cutting across the finish line

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Thirty years in the making: the grandma graduate...pg. 9

Education vs. jobs, which comes first? ...pg. 4

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Students struggle to put their education first

BY SHANNON WALTER
Coyote Contributor

The California State University system is raising tuition by 9.1 percent for the 2012-2013 school year, increasing the amount that we pay every quarter.

Tuition has skyrocketed in the past decade and the new increase marks an extra $498 for students next year. It makes it hard for a lot of students to even think about coming to school because the amount of units that we can take is now capped at 17 for each quarter.

Last academic year’s limit was at 21.5, which made it easier when you have to worry about some classes being five units.

A lot of heartburn over this issue is coming straight from the students, letting staff and faculty know just how they feel.

“My tuition has been raised, and my units have been lowered. And you wonder why people stay in college for five to six years now? Ridiculous,” said sophomore Robin Gamba.

“I’ll now be spending more for school, and now on my three month break I’ll have to spend another two grand for the Rec Center for this school year, along with worrying about how their financial aid will be disbursed to students.

Along with worrying about how their financial aid will be disbursed, students have to worry about how they will pay for their loans upon graduating from CSUSB.

This on top of registering for classes for Fall 2012 and making sure they meet the 17-unit max seems to be the main topic of discussion in the student union.

With this huge pressure looming overhead, many students are finding themselves having to just grit their teeth and bear it, looking for some sort of positive outlook on it all.

“No one can take your education away, it’s yours, you worked hard for it and it will hopefully get you a good paying job in the end to help pay back what you loaned out,” says freshman Gianna McCoy.

Although students are frustrated with the problems they may have to face financially, the harsh reality of the increase is “you can’t cut a price on education” says graduating senior Stefany Zacarias.

The uproar among students however, is they might have to put more money into buying books and other school supplies because of the high cost of tuition and less financial aid will be disbursed to students.

Students will have to work harder, not smarter, to make sure that they are able to pay for the necessities that a college degree entails, which gives them less time to study and more time working for a little extra cash just to get by.

On top of all of that is the raise in the annual percentage rate of student loans. Along with worrying about how their financial aid will be disbursed, students have to worry about how they will pay for their loans upon graduating from CSUSB.

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**Grad Grams**

**Vanessa Brodeur**
Vanessa, we are so proud of you, from the little girl you were to the beautiful, smart, young woman you’ve become, we know you will go far with everything you have learned and achieved at CSUSB.

We love you!
Mom, Dad, Justin, Veronica, Grandfather, Grandma, and Rayden

**Fulviu Mihai Fodoreanu**
“Thanks Carmen for being there for me all the way, Andrei for inspiring me, Mom and Dad for all your support, and Tanti Maria for all your help!”

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Monday, June 11, 2012
By ANDREA BRANDSTETTER
Coyote Contributor

Not too long ago I thought I would never finish college. Like many young hopefuls, I graduated from high school with all of these dreams for my future.

I planned to attend UCR, major in psychology, graduate in four years and make new friends while keeping in touch with old ones.

Well, you know what happens when you’re busy making plans. One word. Life.

I did attend UCR for a year as an undeclared major but transferred soon later.

As for the rest of my dreams? They went up in smoke.

Old friends left and I forgot about them.

Instead of moving forward with my life I mourned for what I had lost.

It was here that I decided to major in mass communication and write for the Coyote Chronicle. I always knew that I liked to write so I figured I would try to develop that passion.

It was one of the best decisions I ever made; it helped me discover that I wanted to be a features writer.

While I enjoyed some aspects of the college learning experience I found that I was more intellectually stimulated outside the classroom.

I found that while making new friends is hard work sometimes, new people come along when you least expect it.

I found that there really are teachers and staff you can talk to whether it’s for advice or just to shoot the breeze.

And last but not least, I found that a part of me will actually miss this school now that I’m about to leave.

Don’t get me wrong, as a 25-year-old “super senior,” I’ll be happy to break free from the monotony of classes, homework, etc.

Maybe I’m just a nostalgic, it’s the little things that I’ll miss.

For one, my scenic walks around campus. For those of you who don’t know what I’m talking about, try walking around this place one evening or morning when it’s quiet. The beauty of the mountains, trees and buildings is indescribable.

Second, there’s the Chronicle.

I’ll miss Professor Jim Smart’s weekly witticisms and history lessons, the copy editing on Fridays with Angi Garibay and that freezing cold office.

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It may be the hardest thing you ever have to do, but you’ll grow from it in the long term. Time waits for no one. It moves on even when you’re not ready.

But as Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, “What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
Unlike the average college student, my journey was anything but ordinary because it took me nine years to finally say, “I am graduating from a university.”

I started off at Arizona State University, a school big enough to follow any interest, and I loved it.

I was pursuing my passion in my second year of school by working on sets for commercials and independent films.

I rocked Arizona by playing a role in an independent feature film, which claimed my fame on imdb.com.

This is the part where the TV blurs and goes “SCHHH.”

My friends have always said, I have a gypsy’s soul because I cannot stay in one place for too long.

After taking a “sabbatical...” from classes, I moved to Chicago with my best friend Stacy.

I don’t even remember shutting a darn thing off. I may have left with the vacuum cleaner running, but it did not matter, I was eager to explore.

But the winters took a toll on me, so I headed to Los Angeles.

After leaving Millennium Dance Studio one evening, it hit me.

Not only was I not a good hip-hop dancer but the competition in cities like L.A. are stiff.

Although I was at the studio for fun, I realized that your social capital will only get you so far, but if you want to be on top you need to push yourself and really know your stuff.

It had reminded me of a quote Thomas Wolfe wrote, “A young man is so strong, so mad, so certain, and so lost. He has everything and he is able to use nothing.”

A week later I hopped on a plane back to Chicago and tried to figure it all out.

Well as we know, that is impossible.

I enrolled in school and told myself I need to have a degree before I step into the lions den again.

Although a few survive without proper schooling, I was not going to attempt that feat again.

For a while I was beating myself up for not having attained my degree in four years like the rest of my friends.

But when talking to my friend Jeff, who was a modern day drifter like myself, we came to a realization that life is not a destination, it’s a journey. I learned to accept and appreciate my journey.

I know firsthand that you can learn anything you want in life by actually doing it as well as reading the books.

I gained more life lessons that I need, and have overcrowded my schema of experiences.

I came to CSUSB with an immense thirst for knowledge and to conquer a goal.

I found that school was more interesting and easier as you get older.

I love this place, I have learned so much from Dr. C. Rod Metts and Professor Jim Smart. Both are very talented and a real asset to this university.

Thomas Wolfe once said, “you can never go home again,” but I did, and I am glad I found my way.
After 15 years as CSUSB’s President, Dr. Albert K. Karnig will complete his last commencement on June 16 in the Coussoulis Arena.

In light of increasing tuition costs, Dr. Karnig and his wife donated $50,000 towards the CSUSB President’s Academic Excellence Scholarship program during a honorary gala on May 12.

With the help of another $50,000 raised by the community, Dr. Karnig has pledged to match that by donating another $50,000, possibly ensuring that they will exceed the program’s goal of $400,000.

“Scholarships have always played a crucial role in attracting and helping students. But in the wake of massive government spending cuts to higher education, the need for scholarships has never been greater,” said Dr. Karnig at the event.

CSUSB’s third president, Dr. Karnig has broken records when it comes to enrollment and student retention.

“Improvement from 75 percent to 89.1 percent overall for first-to-second year retention—now third best among the 23 CSU campuses; highest or second highest African-American and Latino retention rates among CSU campuses,” stated the CSUSB website.

Dr. Karnig has said in talks at multiple diversity events held on campus that he is very proud of the amount of diversity this campus has and is impressed with the students that attend.

Student Raul Martinez said, “15 years have passed and CSUSB has grown as a university, as a community and as a place where students feel comfortable to be a apart of what Dr. Karnig has worked very hard to do.”

Dr. Karnig has also received numerous awards throughout his years at CSUSB, some include the Excellence in Education Award, from Inland Empire Young Visionaries (2012) and Educator of the Year Award from the Inland Empire Economic Partners, (2012, 2007).

Although 15 years have gone by, what this university gained from having Dr. Karnig as president will continue to have a positive effect on the students, faculty and staff.

Goodbye Dr. Karnig, the Chronicle wishes you well.
A Graduating Grandmother

By ANGELINA GARIBAY

Two years ago I applied to CSUSB to earn my bachelor’s degree in communication.

I was a transfer student from Victor Valley Community College (VVC) and I transferred there from Rio Hondo Community College (RHCC).

Did I mention that the RHCC transfer was from over 30 years ago?

That’s right, I am what you might call a gray-haired granny. Well, no gray hair, there’s a box of magic for that, but I am a grandmother to 11 beautiful, adorable and smart children.

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My first days on the CSUSB campus were a bit hard. At VVC there seemed to be a larger population of older folks.

After all, we had things in common and I am always looking for an excuse to talk—okay, brag about my grand kids.

Here at CSUSB, everyone is so young. Most of the kids are younger than my own children. I felt totally out of my element.

But I discovered a wonderful truth, friends are waiting to be made at any age. And I have made many friends over my two years here.

Although I might have perceived myself as being too old to relate to younger students, the students didn’t feel that way.

I have listened to stories of new love, lost love, been partners in team projects, helped and been helped with class concepts and heard about students post-college dreams.

I have been accepted and appreciated for who I am.

For the last 30 plus years I had been practicing the housewifely art of childcare, home-cooking and house cleaning, activities not exactly in common with college students.

I did find out that certain staff members on the Coyote Chronicle appreciated home-cooking when I felt the urge, and had the time, to whip up a batch of cookies.

I have to admit, I might have fussed over my friends when they came to class sniffling and sneezing, offering advice on chicken soup and passing out vitamin pills; It’s hard to turn off my mom but-

Now it’s time to walk up the aisle and pick up that prized diploma and wave goodbye to a chapter of my life.

You might be asking yourself what’s happening in my next chapter. What am I doing to increase my major in human communication and minor in public relations? Those precious grandchildren have been waiting patiently for Nana to have more time for them. They have heard the homework excuse for two years.

Tea parties, driveway chalk drawings, dancing in the sprinklers, painting pictures and shopping for clothes and toys are at the top of their list for me.

My husband, Alex, has been impatiently waiting to take me on a road trip.

On my to do list is a glut of reading on my new Kindle Fire, teaching a quilt class, traveling around to visit relatives and friends, and trying to find neglected friends to shop and lunch with.

For my career aspirations, I am looking into some public relations opportunities with non-profits.

I need to beef up my resume as I’m pretty sure tea parties in the treehouse and chalk drawing on the driveway won’t add up to much.

On June 17, I will be dancing onto the stage with many of my new found friends to pick up our diplomas. Life is sweet.
By SPENCER HIRSCH
Asst. Sports Editor

It was intimidating transferring from a community college to a four-year university, but I have learned so many valuable things, both in the classroom, as well as about myself.

When I first stepped onto this huge campus, I had some doubts. Would I be able to cut it at the university level? Would I be able to achieve the same academic success I achieved at Chaffey? Would I be taken seriously by my professors and prove to them that I had the ability to write sound, concise and thorough essays?

After completing my first quarter here in Fall 2011, I soon learned that the answer to all of these questions was yes. I had no reason to doubt in the first place. The formula for success did not change. The only thing that did change was the size of some of the classrooms.

Success is measured by effort, which is something that I have always shown, giving maximum effort in all of my classes throughout my entire academic career. What really struck me upon reaching the end of my college career is that I have what it takes to be successful.

What I have learned most about myself from an educational and career standpoint is that my passion and talent is in writing. I have a God-given gift to write. I love to write about sports.

My favorite learning experience here at CSUSB was covering sports events and writing on them for the Coyote Chronicle. I proved to myself that I have what it takes to become a full-time sports journalist.

I am able to conduct good interviews, and get good quotes from the players and head coaches of the respective Coyote athletic teams that I covered. I am able to write a story that sports enthusiasts want to read, as I know how to incorporate the quotes I got from the players and head coach in a way that keeps the readers engaged and eager to read on.

I loved getting the opportunity to intern as the assistant sports editor for the Coyote Chronicle this spring. This university helped me to grow into the writer I need to be in order to flourish as a sports journalist in the real world. I am forever grateful to Professor Jim Smart and this university for helping me grow.

While my journey is now complete at CSUSB, I know that there is so much I will take from this university and use in order to reach my future goals. I also know that there is still plenty for me to learn.

This university has shown me that no matter what you have accomplished and done in your life, learning never stops. You can learn something new every single day.

I began my college career as an 18-year-old teenager, and I am graduating as a 23-year-old man.

By ELIZABETH CLARK
Coyote Contributor

O n the first day of winter quarter, 2011, I stepped into Comm 401: Gender, Race and Mass Communication. Not even ten minutes passed before I knew, I made the right decision in transferring to CSUSB.

I never thought I would end up here, though I never had a clear idea of where I imagined furthering my education after graduating from community college.

After transferring, I changed my concentration several times, but finally embraced the mass communication concentration. Many allow me to realize that the communication field incorporates all the areas of study that interested me. I decided that communication happened to be one of the most important concentrations in a media-centered society.

While here, many of the Professors, namely Dr. C. Reddick, Mike Wichman and Scott Rodriguez both inspired and challenged me. I gained skills in critical thinking, theory, film studies, media literacy and most importantly I learned hands-on experience in writing and single-camera film production.

As the past year blurred by, I reflected back, almost regretful that I didn’t take glass blowing, photography or a foreign language class. I wish that I could have taken the year-long production course with Dr. Metts.

While enrolled in this program, I directed, shot and edited several short films alongside friends who shared the same curiosity, vision and ambition of filmmaking.

Now counting the days until graduation, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement as I move forward in my academic path.

Along the way, I realized that the communication production concentration was one of the most important concentrations in a media-centered society.

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Stepping out of the desert and into the real world

By ELIZABETH CLARK
Coyote Contributor

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Graduating with the ball in his court
After graduating from CSUSB in December 2011, the past six months of my life have gone from a university of over 17,000 to a small town of a little over 3,000. I came to CSUSB in 2009 with the idea that I wanted to cover sports journalistically. I wasn’t sure whether that meant broadcast journalism, the traditional sense of sports journalism, or something else, I wasn’t even sure how I could get started in that direction.

I meandered my way through the first year of college just taking classes that fit into my schedule. It didn’t really help me figure out what I wanted to do until I enrolled in the journalism class with Professor Jim Smart.

I began to write about sports in many different platforms like online, newspaper, blogs etc. It allowed me to express my thoughts, hopefully clearly enough, and gave me the experience I needed with several different mediums.

I parlayed that into becoming an assistant sports editor and finally the sports editor at the Chronicle. It was an experience that has altered my life forever. After graduating, I took on the long, grueling process of sending out resumes and applications for dozens of sports writing positions.

I sent applications to the vast stretches of the country, such as newspapers in Maryland, Kentucky, Oregon, Florida, Alabama and even one in Canada. I sent applications to online sports entities such as ESPN, Yahoo! and Bleacher Report, amongst others.

I became frustrated to not hear back from most of the potential employers, not even a rejection letter.

But finally, I heard back from a small town paper in Montana called The Glasgow Courier. It was my chance. They gave me a phone interview and within a week, I had accepted the offered position and was planning to uproot my entire life to go to Glasgow, Montana.

I was leaving my fiancé, my friends, my family and my pets! It wasn’t exactly how I pictured the direction my life would take.

Nevertheless, I moved in February and have been serving as the sports editor covering the local high school sports and occasionally the universities in Montana ever since.

It has been quite a switch. There’s no Target, no In-N-Out, it’s only possible because a few faculty and students at CSUSB gave me a chance to find myself.
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Blood, sweat and baseball.

Those three little words basically describe my life a year after graduating from CSUSB.

I now live in Visalia, California, located in the Central Valley of California about 40 minutes south of Fresno. I work for the Visalia Rawhide, a Minor League Baseball team affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks. After graduating in June of 2011, I was excited and scared at the same time of where I would end up and where I would work.

I knew I wanted to work in sports, primarily in baseball.

After the summer I landed a job with the Rawhide and have not stopped working since.

Just because there is no baseball from November through March, doesn’t mean there is no work to get done.

I moved up to Visalia in October to work in the front office as the Groups and Events Coordinator and Hispanic Marketing Coordinator.

In Minor League baseball we do many jobs like sales calls, presentations, community appearances, bartending, the mascot, groundkeeping, taking videos, working social media, wedding planning,yes wedding planning, because of a promotion that the ball club does every year and so much more.

At least I can put all these on a resume at the end of the year.

During the offseason it is up to the front office to get sponsorship and sell season tickets for the ball club. Many teams actually rely on sponsorship just to make a profit at the end of the year.

While in the offseason it is the normal 8 a.m.-5 p.m. work days, but during the regular season it is an entirely different story.

When the team is at home our schedule is usually from 8 a.m. until about an hour after the game ends, which is about 11 p.m. to midnight.

After a seven-game homestand we are working about over 100 hours a week and most of us are worn out.

The long hours aren’t bad because in college I would work two jobs and go to school.

Everyone might be thinking that this isn’t too bad for money because I am racking up a ton of hours. Wrong.

Obviously, I am not doing it for the money, I am getting paid with experience.

Just like the ball players moving up to the big leagues, that is exactly what I am trying to do. And I will get there.

I just have to put in some years and make some great contacts, which I already have in my short time.

All in all, I love my job and the people I work with. Most people have “a case of the Mondays,” while I get to go to the ballpark.

By JESUS ROMERO

Coyote Contributor

Fairy tales come true in Washington

I thought that I’d have everything together by now, at least the small stuff, like my life. But, alas I don’t. The year after graduation was one of the toughest of my life thus far, and it hasn’t slowed down.

This isn’t your Cinderella story. I didn’t get a glass slipper and I’m far from living in a mansion with Prince Charming. At any rate, I am on my way to fulfilling my dreams and each day I’m getting closer.

I was a naïve graduate. I thought with a bachelor’s degree in communications how could I NOT find a job!

I couldn’t have been more wrong.

Two weeks after graduation and I still couldn’t find an internship, not even an unpaid one. I was confused; I didn’t know what to do or where to go. I just kept hoping and praying somebody would give me a chance.

Finally, after a month of searching, I got an e-mail from Bryant Fairley with Service Learning and Community Partnerships at CSUSB. He had an internship opportunity for me working at the Humane Society of San Bernardino. It seemed like my luck was starting to change.

A couple of months later I found myself interning in downtown Los Angeles.

Then in February of this year, I was accepted into an internship program in Seattle, Wash.

Two weeks after I found out, I road tripped from California to Washington. I packed my tiny car with only my essentials; clothes, shoes and of course my Harry Potter collection.

Saying goodbye to my family, and if I remember correctly, one friend, was difficult. I had never been to Washington and I didn’t know a soul. It was intimidating. Not to mention I had lied about my internship and told people it was a job offer.

My internship experience was truly amazing. I was able to really immerse myself in the world of public relations and I found different areas of interest.

At the end of the internship my risk paid off and I was offered a position as an Account Coordinator.

It took me a year to find a full-time job. It’s not easy. You have to make sacrifices, but my journey has allowed me to meet so many different people many of which I still keep in touch with. I’ve met CEOs, fellow interns, I’ve worked with senior vice presidents of agencies and each day I learn something new.

I can’t say that I’m not still homesick. Every day I miss California and everyone close to me. I haven’t made friends outside of work just yet because I’m such an introvert. What I can say though, is that I love my job.

I learned that you have to take risks in life if you want to make things happen. You have to believe in yourself and you have to take everything as a learning opportunity and know that it’s okay to make mistakes and it’s okay to try new things. That’s how you figure out what you want.