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Congratulations class of 2013!

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

Coyote Chronicle grads reflect on their time at CSUSB and discuss their futures

Photo by Richard Bowie
Rivalry helps friends cross the finish line

By ART ORTEGA  Staff Writer

Five years ago during the start of freshman year in high school, Robert Brendza and Jose Navarette never knew they would become finalists for the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award.

In addition they never expected to develop such a strong, professional relationship with one another.

“We knew each other back in high school, but we weren’t close friends yet,” says Jose Navarette.

“We both played different sports and had different groups of friends. I played basketball, and Jose played football,” replied Robert Brendza.

Now, five years later, both men are decoratively graduating with numerous awards and honors.

Brendza will be graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship, Finance and Real Estate.

Navarette was placed second in the Intercollegiate Business Strategy Competition and has been inducted into the following: Golden Key International Honour Society, Collegiate Honor and Society Phi Kappa Phi, Entrepreneurship Honor Society, Sigma Nu Tao, Financial Management Association National Honor Society, graduating Cum Laude honors with department honors in all three concentrations, graduating top 5 percent of Undergraduate Business students and top 7.5 percent of Juniors in all academic disciplines.

“Phew, that took a couple long, deep breaths to say,” said Brendza.

“Continued ‘we saw each other more and more, which resulted in learning together and from each other.’”

“We both want the same thing: to be successful in serial entrepreneurship,” said Navarette.

Serial Entrepreneurship involves building a business from the ground up, starting from scratch, growing them from nothing, making them public and finally selling them.

“I would say one of the most memorable experiences I have had is competing for the Garner Holt Competition,” said Brendza.

“Perhaps I could not have found my ‘niche’ and realized what I wanted to do if there hadn’t been an event to encourage anyone to do it,” said Navarette.

“We found success in the hood!” says Brendza.

Both Navarette and Brendza have become close friends throughout their journey here at the university.

“I don’t know how it happened, but our paths just kept crossing!” said Brendza.

He continued “we want to be your right hand woman. Lacey, you are such an inspiration to me and have always helped me better my skills, taught me what I needed to learn, and let me be your right hand woman. Thank you for being there.”

Ashlynne offers words of encouragement to those looking for internships. “I took the Disney College Internship in Orlando, Fla. It was an amazing experience that I strongly encourage anyone to do.”

After graduation, Ashlynne will be working as an event coordinator for pageants in Victorville and plans on getting her master’s degree at UNLV for Human Resources or Public Administration.

It has not only been an honor, but a privilege to have gotten close to such a gracious person with a lovely attitude.

Good luck in the real world my friend, my sister and mentor!
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ROOMMATE WANTED
Best friends ready to cross the finish line

Energetic fashionistas get ready to step out into the real world

By PRISCILLA ARVIZU
Staff Writer

Danielle Workman started her undergraduate degree in Fall 2009. From day one, Workman promised herself she would have her undergraduate degree within four years. This was not only a promise to herself, but a promise to her parents. Workman achieved her goal, and will be receiving her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies on June 15, 2013.

“I’m so thankful my parents supported me over the course of these past four years. Without their constant encouragement and support I couldn’t have done it without them,” said Workman.

Workman started her college career as a Kinesiology major, but quickly learned that was not the field for her. After taking Communication 120, public speaking, Workman realized that’s where she belonged.

At the start of her sophomore year she switched to communication studies and never looked back. “It was the best decision I made. I have thrived and succeeded in the Communication Studies Department. The Communication Studies Department faculty and staff are not only encouraging, but extremely helpful. Whenever I had an issue, question, or simply wanted to talk, their doors were always open,” said Workman.

Workman always had Coyote pride, but didn’t start to show it until her senior year when she was a member of the Coyote Spirit Dance Team. “I am so thankful I found this new sense of pride for CSUSB my senior year. Something about dancing at every home, women’s and men’s basketball games, was a great way too boost my school spirit. Seeing the pride in the crowd every week, and the heat on the floor from our players was an amazing experience. I will miss dancing next to my Yote Girls so much! The bond between us dancers, is something I will never find anywhere else,” said Workman.

Workman is such a charismatic person and a great friend. After all your hard work and school pride I know you will succeed in life. Congratulations Danielle!

Priscilla Arvizu will have more than a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies, when she accepts her diploma from CSUSB Saturday evening, June 15, 2013.

Arvizu also will take with her a life-changing experience as a PR student that helped her acquire strong communication/public relation skills.

Her education has equipped her to handle media relationships, good writing abilities and oral communication skills. Every single communication course has molded Arvizu to be a results-driven individual adept at multi-tasking in a fast-paced environment, and work collaboratively with a high-energy group of individuals.

Arvizu’s time at CSUSB lasted for five years. She went from a Business major to Marketing to being Communication Studies, PR major.

To this day Arvizu feels she has made the correct decision by changing majors. Because she has enjoyed her classes and professors; she believes communication professors have great personalities much like herself, which she can see herself through them.

After graduation Arvizu plans on applying to jobs in Los Angeles, since the city is where her interest lies. “Looking into my reflection these past five years I’ve discovered more traits and aspects about my personality and abilities I learned a lot about myself, my interests lies in communication, event planning, and coordinating activities and details,” said Arvizu.

She finds her calling through event planning, traveling, blogging, fashion and design.

Arvizu is known to be a very structured and organized person, always trying to find order everywhere.

She has grown to be an individual with strong interpersonal, communication, analytical and writing skills with the ability to exercise effective professional judgment.

CSUSB has given Arvizu self-esteem, allowing her to see the great potential she conveys inside.

Arvizu’s education and experience as a CSUSB alumna, will open many doors for her in LA.

“It’s all about knocking on the right doors at this point on— I am ready and ecstatic to begin this new chapter in my life,” says Arvizu.

Good luck with fulfilling your dreams I know the city will welcome you with open arms.
Started from the bottom, now I’m here
Graduating senior reflects on the lowest moment of his academic career and how it pushed him to succeed

BY MATTHEW BRAMLETT
Coyote Contributor

The room was shabby, stuffy, and depressingly beige in color - typical fare for a worn-down portable classroom.

One side of the room was adorned with Polaroid photos of older and haggard looking people, some with scabs dotting their faces that were indicators of heavy methamphetamine abuse.

The teacher, a kindly old man who looked like he was hours away from retirement, sat at his desk in the front of the room, reading a book. I sat in the back of the room, scanning my classmates for any signs of life or vitality. There were none.

It was my first day at the Yucaipa Adult School, and I had nobody but myself to blame for being here. I wasn’t a very rebellious or problematic kid in general; I was polite to my teachers and nice to my friends and other classmates.

I was, however, overwhelmed with boredom and had a dangerous lack of motivation. I let my ennui get the best of me, and my grades were so bad that I was barred from walking with my class at graduation and forced to make up my failures at the adult school.

I was barely 18, and I had already resigned myself to the notion that I was going to have a terrible life.

Nearly all of my other friends, even the ones who smoked with me in the back of my truck, went on to nice colleges and presumably bright futures. They had their lives straightened out and I didn’t, and my hopelessness and jealousy was overwhelming.

I vividly remember my school counselor’s unsympathetic tone as she broke the news to me. It was a tone not unlike a jury foreman reading a verdict to a convicted criminal.

After she read my sentence, she managed to blurt out a fake and forced “I’m sorry” before rushing me out the door to give the same disassociated speech to another high school f*ck-up.

The teacher passed around packets full of pages that were unskillfully photocopied from a third-rate 1970s textbook. It contained basic algebra problems, fill-in-the-blank U.S. History passages, and 9th grade reading comprehension work.

“You’re here because you want to be here,” I remember him saying. “You can leave whenever you like. Whether or not you succeed depends on the work you do.”

As the weeks went on, I burned through packet after packet, re-learning things I was taught in classes I barely attended.

As time progressed, the class size shrank as faces I had grown accustomed to began to disappear.

At the end of the summer, less than half the class was left. I triumphantly presented my final packet to my teacher, and after a few signatures, I was free. I immediately raced to my former high school to get my awaiting diploma. I remember the assistant principal was on the phone with someone as he fumbled through his desk to get the piece of paper I worked all summer for.

His handshake was limp and uncar ing, and he didn’t look me in the eye. After getting my diploma, I immediately drove to Chaffey to sign up for classes.

I always tell people that day was the most productive of my life.

Years later, as I await the improbable situation of graduating from a university, my mind takes me back to that dingy portable where I spent the lowest moments of my academic life.

I’ll also think about the counselors and teachers who tossed me aside as a lost cause as I walk across the stage and shake Dr. Salvador’s hand.

The ride was not without its bumps, but the mere fact that I’m here graduating signifies my desire to forge a better life for myself, despite what I had done in the past.

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While attending CSUSB I have made many new friends, undergone multiple transformations, and created lifelong memories.

I will be graduating this Saturday with a BA in Communication with a mass communication concentration.

I enrolled at CSUSB during the fall of 2010 as a psychology major after completing two years at Crafton Hills Community College.

My first year as a Coyote was quite stressful; I wasn’t attending classes on a regular schedule and ended up on academic probation multiple times.

In addition, I began to doubt myself thinking that maybe college wasn’t for me. After almost 2 years of struggling as a psychology major I made the switch to communications with a concentration of mass.

Since then, I no longer had to deal with the stress of academic probation and for once was able to tolerate my classes.

After enrolling in various core communications courses I began to lean towards film history and video production. That was another one of my many phases and transformations.

In the winter of 2012 I enrolled in Comm 240, writing for media, with professor Kathryn Hansler.

This specific course was chosen in order to fulfill a mass communication concentration requirement.