Read about 14 grads and their journey at CSUSB

Where are they now?
Follow Marissa’s success story

GRADUATION ISSUE 2014
The Chronicle went on the hunt to find the most fascinating graduates of 2014. The lucky 14 were chosen based on their admirable work ethic, academic accomplishments, outstanding personalities, and everything in between. Read about them on pages two through seven.

Mary Grace Moreno
Bachelor of Arts in Human Communications

While many students view graduation as the end of their academic careers, Moreno has forgone walking in the 2014 graduation ceremony because her education is far from completed. Moreno plans to hone her focus on her nonprofit organization with the accomplishment of her best friend, Arlene.

We were creating a show about wanting to open a progressive intergenerational theatre art venue. We’ve talked about it for years and we are finally able to really focus on making it happen,” said Moreno.

For nearly five years Moreno has also had the support of her partner, Conrad Negron, who will also be graduating from CSUSB and continuing his education at CSUF.

Moreno is currently picking up her life from CSUSB in pursuit of new ventures with Negron, their cats, and the endless opportunities that come with a higher education. After years of research, late night sessions, and dedication, Moreno is optimistic about her future with the possibility of pursuing a Doctorate.

Kangwook Noh
Bachelor of Science in Economics

Kangwook Noh is a foreign exchange student from South Korea majoring in Economics.

Noh plans to work for a year and prepare himself for graduate school.

He wishes to eventually become a professor and also plans to “travel around the world and do something meaningful such as volunteering [and] helping our neighboring countries.”

By EMMANUEL GUTIERREZ
Staff Writer
Emmanuel Gutierrez | Chronicle Photo
Rowen Concepcion
Master's in Computer Science

Rowen Concepcion is a graduate student here at CSUSB. He will be graduating on Friday, June 13, 2014 with a Master’s degree in computer science. He has endured senior projects, master thesis deadlines, and even academic probation.

“One, my friends saying that you can do this [kept me going]. My mentor told me to think of this as a distant memory, if you survive it, and she said I will, then I will be ready for anything. Two, I was so close to the finish line. All I had was my master’s thesis. To quit when I was 80 percent done, why? I just had to remind myself why I pursued higher education, which was to create opportunities for myself for a better life,” said Concepcion.

He plans to continue applying for careers in computer science, especially with corporations that are concerned with developing cutting-edge technology, such as MITRE.

By STEPHANIE PARA
Staff Writer

Anissa Brown
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

Anissa Brown is set to graduate this quarter on Saturday, June 14, 2014 with a Bachelor’s degree in communications. She has balanced school, a job, maintaining other means of transportation, and caring for her sick mother since her freshmen year.

“I have never been the type to quit and once I start something I have to see it to the end. I’d like to think that I have a great work ethic, so more often than not I was my own motivator. Of course, I had the support of my friends and family but I knew that to accomplish my goals I had to do it for myself and no one else,” said Brown.

Brown plans on applying for jobs this summer and beginning graduate school next year.

By STEPHANIE PARA
Staff Writer

Chelsea Underwood
Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media Communication Studies

Chelsea Underwood will be graduating this spring on June 14, 2014 with a Bachelor’s degree in mass media studies.

She survived 15-17 unit quarters, coaching high school basketball, and regular contribution to the Coyote Chronicle.

“My parents never really had the opportunity to go to a four-year college, so when my sister and I had the opportunity to go to a four-year, they were fully supportive. They told us that they would pay for both of our four-year tuition, so we can acquire a quality education and graduate with no debt,” said Underwood.

“I am so thankful for my parents and their support along with my friends, colleagues, and mentors. It is a blessing,” continued Underwood.

She plans to apply for an intern at the U.S. Olympic Committee Internship Program for the upcoming fall in communications. If she needs to, she will also be interning with the L.A. Clippers communications department for a second season, along with working at a sports camp as a volunteer for her church’s sports program, Upward-Bound Sports.
Jennifer Baeskens
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies

Jennifer Baeskens is ready for graduation day at the end of this Spring quarter. She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in communication studies.

She took 19 units this quarter and her mind set on graduating. She had to overcome her poor time management skills and the temptation to procrastinate.

“I wanted to graduate and I wasn’t letting anything stop me. It has been challenging but completely worth it,” said Baeskens.

Her future plans include a media relations internship for a nonprofit, public relations job searching, and getting some much needed rest.

By STEPHANIE PARA
Staff Writer
Stephanie Para | Chronicle Photo

André Quintana
Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media Communications

Quintana is a mass media studies major interested in the television and video production field. His younger brother Robert is graduating from Moreno Valley College this June as well.

“Me and my younger Robert will be graduating in the same year. It’s very special to us [my family], because it’s probably never going to happen again,” said Quintana.

“I want to say it’s been surreal, mostly because I remember coming here, [and] I didn’t know anybody. And then I started to open myself up to people here and they’ve been so gracious and welcoming,” continued Quintana.

After graduating, Quintana plans to “cast his reel” for work in the Los Angeles area for various network stations.

Ideally, however, Quintana would like to create, develop and produce his own projects and programs.

“I want to produce, direct, write, and edit my own shows or programs,” said Quintana.

Quintana worked as a video lab assistant in the CSUSB video lab for media specialist, Michael Wichman, whom he humbly refers to as his “second parent.”

“Looking back at the seven years at my college life accumulating to this point. I didn’t think I would be here, with a job, an internship – it’s overwhelming, it’s humbling,” said Quintana.

[With school] there used to be a safety net, I think I’m ready to not have it anymore. I’m ready for the uncertainty, I’ve out grown worrying about the future,” continued Quintana.

Quintana envisions positive plans and achievements for his life and encourages future graduates to do the same.

“Try not to control everything, try not to live rigidly – live flexibly. Never feel [bad] that things don’t happen or do happen. Life has a way of working things out for you,” said Quintana.

By LOYDIE BURMAH
Staff Writer
Loydie Burma | Chronicle Photo
Angela Velasquez
Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies

Angela Velasquez is set for graduation this Fall 2014, with a Bachelor degree in liberal studies with a concentration in geological sciences.

She had to face the death of three family members within a six months while working a full-time manager position in addition to her attendance here at CSUSB.

“Throughout every road block or challenge my parents were always by my side. They always reassured me that everything will be okay and that everything happens for a reason. No matter what problem I faced, they were always there to pick me up and I am forever grateful to have such supportive parents. My prize for graduating is being able to make a difference in children’s’ lives and being able to repay my parents for everything that they have done for me,” said Velasquez.

She plans on being a substitute teacher at nearby schools, and once she has taken the CBEST and CSET exams, she plans on attending the University of Redlands to earn her teaching credential.

Rusty Nzekwu will graduate on June 14, 2014 with a degree in environmental studies.

He had to cope with readjusting to school life after returning to school at the age of 25.

“My prize is knowing that I stuck to my guns. Knowing my family never quit on me and even in my darkest moments they kept pushing me forward. Collecting my BA allows me to earn a better living and in the future provide for my family,” said Nzekwu.

Nzekwu plans to work for the government, primarily in the area dealing with waste and/or drinking water.
Inno Sita  
*Bachelor of Arts in Mass Media Communications*

“I was a science major, I didn’t know what to do – I was struggling a lot. I switched my major to something I wanted to do, so I switched to mass comm.,” said Inno Sita.

Before attending CSUSB, Sita’s original choice was San Diego State in pursuit of becoming a pharmacist like his father.

Unfortunately, he was denied due to overcrowding and Sita began searching and applying for other schools to attend, including CSUSB.

“I got accepted to Indiana State, so I packed all of my belongings in my car and drove to the Midwest. I stayed for two weeks, and then I found out I got accepted to San Bernardino,” said Sita.

Upon receiving acceptance, Sita made his trek from the Midwest back to sunny Southern California. Sita plans on working in the television and video production field as a filmmaker, director, and screenwriter.

“I started [filming] when my uncle gave me his camera to use. I filmed my aunt who came from Canada. By the time she left, I edited. I felt the connection with filming and editing,” said Sita.

Ever since, Sita created his own production (Inno Sita Productions) and has produced various short films, including his very first short “Interested,” which was shot here on campus.

“With my production, I’m trying to bring it back home from where I’m from, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. We don’t have HD channels, short films, or interesting shows for kids,” said Sita.

Sita’s plans for after graduation include: searching for work in the Los Angeles area, involving him in various video production projects, as well as working on his web series “Bill and Steph.”

“Be aware of what’s around you. Everything is here, we just don’t use it. Use what the school’s provided for you. Once you’re done, you can’t rely on school,” said Sita.

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Joanne Rivera  
*Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

Joanne Rivera is one of many graduating seniors from CSUSB who is earning her Bachelor of Science in Nursing this quarter.

In just a few weeks, her all night study sessions, flashcard trivia, medical jargon and dedication will be celebrated in the 2014 Graduation ceremony.

“I am super excited to graduate. I wasn’t sure this day would ever come. A part of me is still shocked that I made it this far. It took me seven years to get to this point and now that graduation is just around the corner the entire experience seems so surreal,” said Rivera.

Rivera has attended CSUSB as a part-time student for roughly seven years, four of which she dedicated to working part-time in the CSUSB bookstore.

Her journey was prolonged due to a lack of guidance, motivation, and initial commitment.

“I didn’t always take school so seriously. In order to make the program, I had to reach a new level of commitment by retaking certain classes and developing that mind set to not give up on my education,” said Rivera.

Her resilience and dedication to the program has become a motivating factor in her hard fought journey. As a result of her dedication to the nursing program, Rivera’s self-confidence blossoms for her future endeavors as a Registered Nurse (RN).

“I feel like I was born to be a nurse and nursing reminds me of my grandmother. Before she passed, she had a number of medical issues. She was everything to me. Through her experiences, I learned how to be a caring nurse. It made me feel good to care for her when I could and as a result of that I can’t see myself in any other career,” said Rivera.

For years, Rivera has gained hands-on training in the nursing program, is no stranger to commitment, and feels the need to advise prospective students with their long-term commitment and college careers.

“Here’s my advice to anyone in any major. Be nice to the professors and develop relationships with them. It is highly beneficial to know the staff, create bonds, leave lasting impressions, and you just might get letters of recommendation that can help in the long-term,” said Rivera.

With a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Rivera hopes to actively pursue a nursing career and obtain work at a nearby facility.

Although opportunity has not come knocking on her door yet, Rivera is optimistic about her future endeavors as a registered nurse.
Angelina Butler
Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food

Angelina Butler will be set to graduate with a degree in nutrition and food sciences and a certificate in gerontology. She persevered through a major struggle, the loss of her father, with the help and support of her family and friends and her drive to make her dream come true.

“During that time, I wanted to be able to mourn for my loss but I had to keep going because I knew he would have wanted me to continue and finish college,” said Butler.

She looks forward to the coming summer with plans of becoming a registered dietician.

By STEPHANIE PARA
Staff Writer
Stephanie Para | Chronicle Photo

Stephanie Attar
Bachelor of Science in Economics and Political Science

Stephanie Attar is graduating with a bachelor degree in economics and political science with a concentration in political economy and minoring in Arabic.

“I’ve always liked studying, no one in my family went to college [...] I wish people would take academics seriously, devote energies to studying if we want to achieve a more perfect society -- it starts with us,” said Attar.

She plans on going to graduate school to earn a Master’s degree in political science, and eventually earn a Ph.D. in economics.

By STEPHANIE PARA
Staff Writer
Photo courtesy of Stephanie Attar

Dominick Dicus
Bachelor of Arts in English

“[This] is one small goal to a long term goal. I’m not worried, I don’t have any fears. It’s about 30-40 years from now being a good writer,” said Dominick Dicus.

Dicus was a marketing major but became an English major after being inspired by emeritus English professor Philip Page’s reciting of “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” by T.S. Eliot in his English 101 course.

“[It was] such a moving experience, he was so passionate about what he wanted to do,” said Dicus.

Dicus also has numerous influences such as creative writing professor, Juan Delgado, his wife, linguistics lecturer, Jean Delgado, as well as associate professor of poetry and poetics, Julie Paegle.

“Juan Delgado is a reputable poet in his own right. He has been very beneficial. He encouraged me to do fiction,” said Dicus.

Dicus is pursuing the creative writing track in English, with plans of becoming a published fiction writer.

He is dual minoring in screenwriting and film studies, and has also applied to be in the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) creative writing program in the fall.

“For me, it’s about the long term. [Schooling] allowed me to cultivate and focus on my experience in writing,” said Dicus.

“My job as an artist is to manifest my beliefs in a way that encourages people [...] I think every artist has the ability to think greatly before they communicate any work,” added Dicus.

Dicus is not the only member of his family to graduate from CSUSB. His mother and his three siblings have all attended this campus.

He mentioned that his family has always believed in the importance of education and that they’re happy he’s graduating.

“One can’t pursue responsibility so much that you don’t do what you love. When you find the balance between the two, that’s when you do something good for society,” said Dicus.

By LOYDIE BURMAH
Staff Writer
Loydie Burmah | Chronicle Photo
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Graduate school or time off

**Not immediately going to Graduate School**

- On a job hunt to compensate for four years of loans or want to ease the financial burden of graduate school.
- Snag an internship in the field of your discipline.
- Working at In-N-Out, but at least your workplace smells like a 4x4 #animalstyle
- You learn about programs where your company can pay or supplement your grad school tuition and begin applying when you're ready.
- You're loving the prestige of your current occupation, but you long for something more and apply for grad school.

**Going to grad school, but how should you spend your time before then?**

- Degrees is the only thing that distinguishes you from the typical vagabond.
- Go catch a flick at a movie theater. Matinee prices are much more attractive, and usually the theaters are less crowded that early.
- Working is always a method of remedying financial woes, so hit up McDonald’s, Starbucks, Quiznos, anywhere but Denny’s.
- Money is not a problem
- You apply to graduate school after your enlightening adventures splitting sandwiches with European vagabonds.
- You hopefully find an occupation in your discipline, maybe an internship, or just anything stable in this economic climate would be nice.
- You fly out to Universal Studios Orlando, Florida to check out the new Harry Potter ride, sip some butterbeer, and pick out your own wand (made of holly and a phoenix feather core, duh).

By EMMANUEL GUTIERREZ
Staff Writer
Alumni and future publicist

By MARISSA MOONEY
Coyote Contributor

Graduation day is meant as a crossover into adulthood.

Between the four, and however many years it actually took to walk across that stage, displays a rite of passage into the start of new beginnings.

I, fortunately started my new beginnings prior to walking across the big stage and receiving my degree in communication studies and public relations.

Exactly a year before my huge milestone, I interned with an Entertainment Public Relations firm based in Los Angeles. I grew to learn the basics of public relations in the Hollywood realm by shadowing my boss, a full-time publicist and CEO of her firm.

I had come a long way since my freshman year at CSUSB. Initially I had no direction, and no idea what I was going to do after my college career. I finally found my love for public relations and with this internship, I knew I wanted to be a Hollywood publicist.

I knew I still had a whole year before I could enter the publicist field, but my boss offered me a free-lance career as a junior publicist for her firm. I attended photo shoots, red carpet events, and glamorous parties with my clients with my boss promising me I would have a career as a publicist as soon as I graduated.

I fell in love with the idea of working behind the scenes in Hollywood and creating relationships with everyone from the media.

From talent agents to actors—I knew the career I was looking for had to be exciting and hard working.

Before I knew I wanted to go in the direction of working in public relations, I had to understand that being a publicist requires you to manage and maintain a relationship with your client (whoever they may be) as a friend, mentor, and confidante.

A lot of trust goes into relationships with clients and my boss had full confidence that when she was out of town on business, I could be there for our clients when she could not.

I had the full support of my boss, friends, and parents that this was the ideal career for me.

On the first day of my internship, my boss told me, “This is a thankless career and you must have thick-skin in order to grow and become a publicist. This isn’t a career anyone can go into, You must have the desire to be an entertainment publicist.”

I used my dedication and determination to show her that I wanted to be just as successful as her in entertainment public relations. My boss has been my supporter, my mentor, and has given me so many amazing opportunities.

Since working in entertainment and talent public relations, it has opened many doors for me to grow successfully.

As I walk across that stage and receive my degree, I will be moving out to Los Angeles after graduation day and will be working as a full-time publicist. I never believed my dream of working behind the scenes as a publicist would grow so quickly.

I found what I wanted to do and I didn’t waste my time trying to live someone else’s dreams and career aspirations. I followed my heart and intuition with the support and encouragement from others.

I only hope others will use college and all of its resources to help them grow and find what they truly want to do.

By LIZ PIRAINO
Staff Writer

Morgan Lim went from graduating at CSUSB in June 2013 with an economics degree to being a deckhand on a boat in Alaska.

Lim’s mother, father, and brother also graduated from CSUSB. He started at CSUSB at the tender age of 16.

Lim earned honors from Hesperia High School and was eligible for early enrollment at CSUSB.

In Lim’s second year, his grades started to suffer and his GPA dropped to a low of 1.7.

Lim decided he needed to recuperate and took two quarters off from school to do some soul-searching.

When Lim returned to CSUSB, he took on his academics with a vengeance and, at the age of 21, graduated with a 3.48 GPA.

In order to increase his grades Lim said, “I had to repeat 8-10 courses.”

He also landed himself on the Dean’s List. Five days after his graduation, Lim was on a plane to Indonesia, where he spent six months learning about the maritime industry.

When he returned to the U.S., Lim found work at Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska where he now works as a deckhand on a boat that takes tourists to see the glaciers.

His duties on the boat include cleaning and making sure the tourists are comfortable, entertained, and most importantly, safe.

Lim recently completed training with the U.S. Coast Guard on safety procedures to implement in case damage should occur to a boat.

Lim will start at California State University, Los Angeles in September, where he will start working on earning his master’s degree in economics.

“I couldn’t [have] gotten through college without the support of my mom. She has definitely been my biggest supporter,” said Lim.

Lim has one piece of advice to graduates this year: “Take chances. You never know where life might bring you. Just take chances.”

2014
Congratulations class of 2014! It has been an honor to have attended California State University, San Bernardino and to have been your editor-in-chief for The Coyote Chronicle.

I first want to thank my outstanding staff for dedicating so much time and effort in providing a well put together newspaper. As you may know, the student-run newspaper is made by the students for the students, so to be a part of something that gives back is a great reward in itself.

To my managing editor and right-hand woman, Marion Gil, you were very helpful as an assistant managing editor. Thank you for always being so attentive and ready to offer any help. Again I’m sorry for eating your quesadilla, but you should be more specific when you say, “Have what you want.”

Marion Gil and Clarissse Toll, thank you both for holding down the news section. Because I was once eating your quesadilla, but you should be more specific when you say, “Have what you want.”

Robby the Mystical Unicorn,” said Malit. “I would be more open in appreciating all the comments and feedback you gave. It’s what makes our newspaper better. I hope you will continue to read The Coyote Chronicle and bring it to life!

Thank you,
Koby Heramil

Exams, essays, long classes, late nights: Real friends conquer it all

By MARION GIL & MARLYN RODRIGUEZ
News and Opinions Editor

Syndy Malit and Robert “Robby” Rigby are best friends who are fortunate enough to graduate together.

The dynamic duo met during their freshman year at orientation and were not only placed in the same group but later had their first chemistry class scheduled together.

“During that fateful chemistry class that they discovered they were both part of the same scholarship program. We met at SOAR orientation, worried about which classes to take and having no friends,” said Malit. “Our professors scheduled our first chemistry class together, and we learned we were both PAES scholars. So we planned the rest of our schedules together and have been inseparable since.

The pair really had become inseparable, the kind of packaged deal that only the closest friends can be.

“Teachers and friends thought of us as a set. You really wouldn’t find one without the other,” said Malit.

The pair has been scheduling their classes together ever since. While some would assume that going to every class with your best friend would be a distraction, Malit felt assurance at having her friend always close by.

“Having someone you know in your classes gives you this sense of peace, so it calmed my fear in talking to people, said Malit. “I would be more open in approaching other people.”

“Teachers and friends thought of us as a set. You really wouldn’t find one without the other,” said Malit.

“Teachers and friends thought of us as a set. You really wouldn’t find one without the other,” said Malit.

“I think we laugh at each other more than we say words to each other. We joke about almost everything,” said Malit. “I mean, how funny can Chemistry be? With other until we’re dead,” said Malit.

For the best dumb copy editor, Maria Perry, thank you for being so patient. You have gained so much knowl-
CONGRATULATIONS COYOTES

Going to grad school or not?
Compare your options

Letter from the editor:
Koby Heramil

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