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Gov. Brown proposes flat budget for CSU system

By COURTNEY SIMS  Staff Writer

Gov. Jerry Brown’s new budget proposal for the California State University (CSU) system will affect all 23 of the CSU campuses.

State funding allocated for the CSU system for the 2012-2013 academic year will only be $2 billion, the lowest it’s been since 1997-1998.

Over the past two years the state’s budget has called for over $750 million in cuts to the CSU system, affecting students, parents, and the CSU staff.

Although this proposal for the new tax hike will not be on the ballot until November, it has university administrators and students planning for the future.

“This problem is not really all that complex,” said President Dr. Albert K. Karnig. “It’s just like a personal budget, you have to save. By not spending our schools baseline budget we are able to put more money into the reserve budget in case the proposal fails,” Karnig continued.

If the tax proposal fails Gov. Brown said he will be forced to make an additional $200 million in cuts to the CSU and UC systems providing only $1.8 million for the campuses.

Sid Robinson, the associate vice president of University Affairs, has a simple solution for the pending budget proposal, “Plan for the worst and hope for the best.”

In the past year tuition has not only increased by 20 percent, but school fees have made it that much harder for students to afford the quality education they expect.
Brown hopes to reduce deficit through increased taxes

By NICOLE VERA
Staff Writer

Higher taxes and $4.2 billion in social spending cuts are the focal points of Gov. Jerry Brown’s 2012-2013 budget plan, released Jan. 12.

Social welfare programs that would lose millions in funding include Medi-Cal, child care services and CalWORKS.

California voters are also being asked to approve a referendum that would result in a temporary raise in taxes for the next five years on the November ballot.

Should the referendum pass, sales tax would raise 5 percent. Income tax would be raised by 1 percent to families making $250,000 — and more for millionaires.

In his annual State of the State speech on Jan. 18, Brown defended his measures saying, “The cuts are not ones I like but the situation demands them. As for the initiative, it is fair, it is fair. It is temporary. It is half of what people were paying in 2010. And it will protect our schools.”

If all goes as planned, it would take care of California’s $9.2 billion dollar deficit.

This is significantly smaller than the over $20 billion deficit that Brown had to originally deal with.

Sid Robinson, associate vice president of University Affairs said, “[The proposal] is optimistic but relies heavily on healthy revenue.”

According to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, estimated revenue has been lower than anticipated for the past couple years.

When asked if he believes voters will approve the tax hike, vice president of CSUSB’s Office of Administration and Finance, Robert W. Gardner said, “It’s hard to tell. The problem for education is that it’s a moving target.”

The California Republican Party remains skeptical as to whether or not the referendum will even pass.

In an official response California Republican Party (CRP) Chairman Tom Del Beccaro criticized Brown tactics saying, “We have the highest combined tax and regulatory burden in the country. Those policies make California uncompetitive and costs us jobs.”

Not only are taxes and cuts an issue but the proposal also includes spending plans for long-term projects, including $1 billion to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and funding for a high-speed rail line.

“California’s have had to cut back on their budget, it’s time for California to do the same,” said Beccaro.

“Instead of the 21 percent increase in spending that Jerry Brown proposes over the next three years, plus high-speed rail, it’s time for California to actually reduce,” continued Beccaro.

Beccaro also said that California Republicans will be suggesting their own proposals to help with the state’s budget problems.

Brown disagrees saying, “California has problems but rumors of its demise are greatly exaggerated.”

He went on to compare critics of the high-speed rail project to those of the Panama Canal, Interstate Highway System, and the Suez Canal saying, “The critics were wrong then and they’re wrong now.”

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Photos Courtesy of the CSU Website

Jeffrey Armstrong $350,000
Elliot Hirshman $350,000

President Jeffrey Armstrong of San Luis Obispo and President Elliot Hirshman each earn a salary of $350,000 plus professional services advertised. The Chronicle reserves the right to edit or reject all materials submitted to the paper.
Wilcox-Herzog is the apple of CSUSB’s eye

Continued from Pg. 1

Wilcox-Herzog said that although she enjoys her research, the most important part of her job is just being in front of class and teaching. “This award is the pinnacle of my career,” an elated Wilcox-Herzog said.

As a winner of this award she will receive $2,000 for professional development to use on new technology, attending conferences, etc. Wilcox-Herzog will also be recognized at the faculty lunch, commencement and at a dinner the mayor of San Bernardino hosts annually.

“I always try to take her classes, she is a very respected teacher,” said two students, Karnalpreet Kaur and Aleida Beacon.

Wilcox-Herzog, who has been employed at CSUSB since 1999, said that of all the honors given to teachers this is the one she covets because it is a direct result of being an outstanding teacher.

Another one of her achievements was winning outstanding teacher for the Social Behavioral Science Department in 2006. Her teaching style reflects her experiences from teaching preschool, elementary school and her own children.

Wilcox-Herzog said one of her main focuses is being honest to her students. She feels that being honest is valuable because many of her students will go into working with children.

Right after graduate school she began working at CSUSB. She said she loves working at CSUSB and feels that it is a place filled with great people who are supportive.

“We are going to learn from you how to raise a perfect teacher,” said a colleague.

Doctoral program hosts info-sessions

By KATHERINE VALADEZ

The first and only doctoral program at CSUSB will host a series of information sessions in January and February at both the main campus and in Palm Desert.

“CSUSB has been chosen as one of the first state universities in California to offer the Doctor of Educational Degree in Educational Leadership,” according to the College of Education’s website.

Information sessions at the main campus will be held on Jan. 25 and Feb. 29 in the atrium of the College of Education building. Sessions held at the Palm Desert Campus will be on Jan. 24 and Feb. 12 in the Oliphant Auditorium.

These sessions are being offered to provide prospective students with information about the doctoral program, application requirements, and the program’s goals and objectives.

“The sessions will give students an overview of and how to apply to the program,” said Catherine Farrington, the program’s administrative support coordinator.

“Students will be getting the nuts and bolts, how many courses are offered and how long the program is,” said Dr. Donna Schnorr, a faculty member and a teacher of this program.

“It will let them know what the big picture is and what the qualifications are,” Schnorr continued.

Dr. Bonnie Piller, director of the Doctorate in Educational Leadership Program, will lead the information meetings. The sessions will be held in a question-and-answer format.

After completing the program, students should be prepared for a “shift in greater leadership responsibility in the field of education,” said Schnorr.

The Doctorate in Educational Leadership prepares students to be effective educational leaders who can bring about school reform and increase student achievement within diverse educational systems, said Schnorr.

Graduates from the program can go on to work in a diversity of educational fields and different levels of education. “They’re not limited to anything,” said Farrington. “They can do whatever they want. It depends on the individual.”

Students with a doctorate in Educational Leadership can go on to become superintendent of schools as well as work in a university and teach, said Nelson.

“I feel like we have some of the best of the best educational leaders,” said Schnorr. “Our program has attracted really strong educational leaders.”

Many of the students in the program come from culturally diverse backgrounds and a variety of socioeconomic levels.

This also has given them a motivation to want to bring about change in schools and close the achievement gap.

The doctorate program teaches students how to do just that.

One of the main goals of the program is to provide students with research tools and knowledge.

The main intent for transforming school practice and prevent the achievement gap in some way through the use of research, according to Schnorr.

“When you infuse research and knowledge, you make more informed decisions,” said Schnorr.
Alumni Association offers online advice for graduates

By KRYSTINA PEDERSEN
Staff Writer

The CSUSB Alumni Association kicks off the New Year with a new way to help CSUSB alumni and future alumni strengthen their career development and networking opportunities through a new and free webinar set to be launched Jan. 18 at noon.

The main focus of the webinar is to provide easily accessible tips on how to successfully compete for public sector career opportunities.

The webinar will provide students and alumni with expert advice and insider knowledge on how to break into the federal recruitment process and sharpen their resumes said Joanna Oxendine, assistant director of Alumni Affairs.

The webinar series will be the first in expanded career support services offered through the Alumni Association.

Future webinars, career workshops and conferences, as well as networking opportunities, will be offered through the association.

The first webinar will be presented by Alex Najera, who has been successful in his career as a human resource analyst for the County of Riverside, Najera will help build resumes for the public sectors said Oxendine.

Following will be webinars based on private sectors, etiquette for job search, preparing for job fairs, interviewing skills, transitioning to a new career, social media and the job search.

Oxendine is very excited to be a part of establishing these new career development programs.

“It’s a great way for students to make connections and have one-on-one time with qualified alumni,” said Oxendine.

Student Alejandra Sanchez is aware that job layoffs and discharges have increased 5.68 percent since this past October, falling 1.19 percent below the level seen last year, feels this online webinar will “give [them] a competitive edge while hunting for jobs in the near future and allow me to network.”

Sanchez believes that everyone should take advantage of this webinar because it sounds very interesting and has beneficial ways to help people advance in whatever work force they chose to enter.

“It’s great the school is willing to help and provide resources to those who have already graduated and moved on to pursue careers in their intended professions,” said graduate Krystian Mora.

“It’s definitely tough for some, I have fellow peers who have graduated years before me and are still having difficulties finding jobs,” she said.

Mora said she would be interested in taking part in this webinar and would recommend any CSU alumni or soon to be graduate to take advantage of what is being offered, “It’s free. It’s online, so it’s easily accessible. Why not take advantage?”
SOPA would suck the life out of the Internet

By DOMINIQUE STERLING
Staff Writer

Wikipedia closed its doors to all English language website users on Jan. 18 for a 24-hour protest against proposed Congression- nal legislation. One of the world’s main sources for free information became no longer accessible.

Wikipedia is known an Internet-based encyclopedia that many college students use as a quick reference, yet are often told by their professors that it is not a credible source of information. Although many of our professors tell us not to use Wikipedia for research, I still refer to it as a tool of reference.

How people prepare for tests and write papers is one thing, why Wikipedia blacked itself out is the bigger issue at hand. Wikipedia protested against both the Stop Online Privacy Act (SOPA) and the Protect IP Act (IP meaning Intellectual Prop- erty), which have been proposed in Congress. If passed, these acts will prohibit users from upload- ing and sharing files as openly and as freely as they do now. I find the possibility of these acts passing to be very scary. While Wikipedia’s protest was taking place, their website page was dressed with a black back- ground and an announcement that simply stated “Imagine a world without free knowledge.”

Accompanied with that message there was also a quick overview of why the protest was taking place. Lastly they left a section where you had the ability to contact your state representa- tive by looking them up with your zip code.

Wikipedia will continue to get my support in the fight for a free and open Internet. “Our mis- sion is to empower and engage people to document the sum of all human knowledge, and to make it available to all humanity, in perpetuity. We care passion- ately about the rights of authors, because we are authors,” Wikiped- ia’s executives stated in the an- nouncement.

According to CTV News, there was one tweet that made a lot of noise within the realm of social media. “Under SOPA, you could get five years for uploading a Michael Jackson song, one year more than the man who killed him,” tweeted user @Jon4Lakers.

Students need grace periods for parking

By ALEJANDRA ARANA
Staff Writer

There needs to be a grace period at the start of each quarter to give students more time to purchase parking permits so they don’t receive harsh fines that could cripple them financially.

Parking Services needs to be more ac- commodating to students who are strug- gling to get by.

Imagine you are a freshman coming onto campus for the first time.

You are in a rush to talk to the finan- cial aid office because for some reason all of your classes were dropped and now you have nowhere to show up on Monday morning.

You take the first parking spot that is available and get in the long line for finan- cial aid that ends around University Hall.

Two hours later you come out frus- trated because no one seemed to help your situation and there is a bright yellow paper on your windshield that says “Parking Vio- lation.”

Now on top of all your school fees and other bills you have the added pressure to pay the parking fine and the actual permit.

CSUSB is a commuter school and the revenue on parking has soared over the past few years.

As of this past fall quarter all park- ing permits are $102 and the annual pass is $306.

Add that to the books, lab manuals, tu- ition, and for some, room and board, and it makes it very difficult to come up with the money for school.

Money is tight for everyone, and there are quarters when students cannot afford the permits before the quarter starts. Instead they are forced to purchase them after each quarter has begun, usually waiting for a paycheck.

Student Marina Serna comments: “I think there should be a grace period because not everyone can afford the cost ev- ery quarter. “Some people don’t get any financial aid so it gives them a little more time to get the money they need [to pay].”

Even when the financial aid disburse- ment comes through for those who qualify, they are sometimes left with nothing to cover the permit.

At the beginning of each quarter lines begin to form outside of the Parking office, making it very difficult to purchase the per- mit.

“They parking information office is packed with people so having to buy a pass on top of finding your classes and getting there on time is a mission,” said student Priscilla Gutierrez.

The only options students have is to pay a $5 day-to-day fee.

That’s a meal that you can’t eat every day that you are unable to pay for the quar- terly pass.

“Many skip the line and buy a day-to- day pass but that’s one more thing to worry about besides homework, due dates, and a job, so a grace period would be fantastic and put many students’ life at ease,” said student Maria Medel.

There should be a grace period every quarter so we can get caught up with other payments. I myself received a parking cita- tion. I empathize with those of you who also have.

Faces in the Crowd

What types of things in your life do you give up in order to afford a parking permit?

“ ”

“I have to work more (and in that time) I could have been doing more of my homework and reading for my nursing classes.”

Alyssa Pamintuan
CSUSB Student

“I had to get a job because parking prices and tuition went up. I also have to use more gas looking for parking, because the lots are so crowded.”

Paula Aranda
CSUSB Student

“I am spending less money on food, and bringing more of it from home. I am also always trying to find cheaper books.”

Nicole Olivar
CSUSB Student
Tuition money not fairly allocated to workers

By KIMBERLY “CHARLIE” TRELGOR
Staff Writer

The stress is building in the CSU system. Tuition and fees continue to rise every year and the number of class offerings and the budget are slashed even further. It appears as if this volcano may be near the point of erupting. As we think increasing tuition and other fees are probably the worst thing that the CSU system can do to students right now. We already broke and the constant increases will only force many of us to either drop out, or work two to three jobs. How will we be able to obtain an education?

According to CSU San Bernardino’s website, as of July 2012 the CSU Board of Trustees approved a tuition increase by 12 percent beginning Fall of 2011. This happened after $650 million was cut from the CSU budget by the state. CSUSB currently has approximately 17,000 students. Tuition for a full time student is $2,148, plus the cost of a parking pass, books and other school supplies. These 17,800 students’ financial contribution amounts to over $36 million each quarter.

Many are asking why tuition and fees keep increasing, and yet the number of class offerings are slashed. Would you like to know where most of your money is going?

According to CSU salary schedule for 2011-2012, office staffs, those we deal with on a day to day basis in the admissions and financial aid offices, make a starting salary of $24,000 a year. It has been over four years since many of these workers have had a pay increase.

Tenured faculty members’ salaries begin at $62,000 for assistant professors and go as high as $173,000 for a full-time professor. Administrators (many of which work in the SMSU building and help to run the centers and programs on campus) annual salaries begin at $89,000 and go as high as $259,000.

These administrators recently received pay increases while other workers will receive theirs in the 2012/2013 school year.

I think we just found our problem. Nobody is saying that these employees should not be paid well for the work that they do at CSU schools, but perhaps we need to start cutting the pay of many of these workers until the budget crisis has been resolved.

Working for years without a raise is indeed quite difficult and can be stressful and frustrating. But the office staff has been doing it while some around them continue to get paid increasing amounts of money.

CSU’s site further states, “The increase will allow CSU to continue to provide a quality education and ensure the academic success of all students.”

From what I see the quality of education is stagnant if not declining, and workers are still getting sligheteven more by not getting a share of that increased income. However sad this situation may be I have seen this scenario before.

It was in a movie where a villain by the name of Prince John was stealing from the poor to give to the rich (namely himself).

Now the question we really need to ask ourselves is: Where the heck is our Robin Hood?

Budget renovation needed

By LIZBETH LOPEZ
Staff Writer

It seems just about every quarter you can log into MyCoyote and always find in bold red letters something like the following: “On July 12, 2011 the CSU Board of Trustees approved an additional twelve percent tuition fee increase effective Fall 2011 after a $650 million cut to the CSU system budget cut by the State of California.”

When will the tuition increases and CSU budget cuts stop?

It is not the first time I have read the undesirable news that the CSU system will have a tuition increase due to budget cuts. What is Gov. Jerry Brown doing to assist offsetting these tuition fee increases?

According to the California State University Office of Public Affairs, Brown wants to raise income taxes on high-income earners and increase the state sales tax, estimating to generate approximately $7 billion a year in additional revenue.

If voters decide not to approve the measures, his budget proposal includes a series of other cuts that would go into effect.

According to The Daily Californian, we can expect an additional $200 million cut to the CSU system, which represents almost 412,000 enrolled students.

It’s a domino effect that should be our primary concern because everything trickles down to the pocket books of students and taxpayers.

This issue primarily will affect those individuals who are caught in the middle, their household income not low enough to qualify for financial aid and California grants, yet they don’t have enough to pay their tuition out of pocket.

Lidia Carrillo, a current business management student at CSUSB, is one of the many students that has had to take out loan after loan in order to pay for tuition. She actually had to transfer from Cali-

fornia University of Riverside to CSUSB because “tuition was too high at UCR but because of the fee increases the tuition here at CSUSB is about the same as a UC. I might as well transfer back,” said Carrillo.

Melissa Duran, a senior at CSUSB has started a one person strike this winter quarter. “I am not buying my textbook for any class because of the budget cuts and because I do not have $200 to pay for a new edition finance book,” Duran said.

Many other students have had to take on a second job while attending school full-time just to obtain a degree in hopes that it will increase job opportunities.

All in this a marketplace that has the highest unemployment rate in four years according to The L.A. Times.

Increasing sales tax is only slapping a temporary Band-Aid to the problem that will still affect millions of students and taxpayers.

The state legislature has their job to do, but the school system needs to revamp how it handles financial aid for students, which is one of the most important ways government can help students enter into the workforce prepared.

The way that financial aid is disbursed should be closely managed and more than the necessary amount to pay for tuition and books should not be given.

According to CSU Public Affairs, it is a “CSU policy that one third of the revenue from the tuition fee increases will be returned to students as financial aid and the remaining tuition fee increase will partially offset the initial $50 million in cuts.”

There have been too many budget cuts to our education system which are making it increasingly difficult for our future generations that strive to succeed.

We need to cut back on other unnecessary funding and developments that are not urgent and focus on investing more in our education.

We cannot expect to renovate and fix our economy by forcing our population into an abyss of ignorance by watering down the education system because we’re low on cash.

Classes are being filled up with some people having no real place to sit and learn, that’s not the best environment to foster future leaders of our nation.

The education of our youth is a long-term investment that will bring positive results for society in coming years.

If we just became a country known for charming book,” Duran said.

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If we just became a country known for

Continued from Pg. 5

Censorship is not what the Internet needs now

SOPA is a bill proposed in 2011 to fight online trafficking in copyrighted and counterfeit goods.

Proposals include barring advertising networks and payment facilities from conducting business with allegedly infringing websites.

It would also bar search engines from linking to the sites that may have infringing information within its site and it would require Internet service providers to block access to these sites.

Maximum penalties for breaking these laws would be a sentencing of up to five years.

Although there are a handful of Internet users who misuse the freedom of the Internet, many others use the Internet as a way of their exercising their freedom of speech.

As an avid music lover I love having the ability to search the Internet and discover new music artists. One of the arguments of legislators is that the music industry is suffering because of piracy.

I agree that artists should be compensated for their work, but SOPA is not the answer to correct piracy, it would have a negative impact on the Internet and its users by playing big brother.

Scaring users offline is not exactly the proper way to tell the world that you are the leader in democracy and personal freedoms.

Sites like Pandora find balance between users’ wants for free music and the artists’ profits and rights, the future of music on the Internet lies in sites like this.

SOPA. If we constrain the scope of the Internet, how can more sites like this start up?

SOPA is just not a practical way of addressing online piracy and it could be the first step into a world of government controlled Internet for America which is scary to imagine.
Students show off their competitive side at the 9 Ball Tournament. The Santos Manuel Student Union was filled with cheers and laughter as students competed for the grand prizes for the two finalists, an all expenses paid trip to Las Vegas, NV.

By TOM STILLWAGON
Staff Writer

CSUSB is giving students a chance to show off their billiard skills with a nine-ball tournament, and the winners will be headed to compete in Las Vegas.

The Santos Manuel Student Union Gamers Lounge hosts the tournament in partnership with CSUSB’s Women’s Resource Center. The men's portion of the tournament took place Jan. 18 in the Gamers Lounge. The winners were Tai Au and Tuan Hyunh. The women’s tournament took place Jan. 20, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Gamers Lounge. The top two men and women will advance to the next round, which will take place in Las Vegas on Feb. 3 and 4. As a prize for competing, all expenses for the trip will be paid by the college.

The event is college affiliated for the western pacific region, through sister school University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Michael Azzurro, program coordinator for SMSU, is responsible for managing the events in the Gamers Lounge. He seemed positive about having his organization involved in the tournament.

“It’s actually a pretty big deal,” said Azzurro. “It’s going to be better than ever.

Winners at the Vegas regionals will have the opportunity to advance to the national tournament. Although the location for that event has yet to be announced, winners will again receive a free trip to compete.

It’s pretty exciting. It’s a tournament in Las Vegas, for UNLV,” said Azzurro. “Winners get to go, all expenses paid and you get to represent the school at the same time. After that, if you win the regionals for the Pacific, people will be going to nationals. I know it’s going to bring a lot of notoriety, I think a couple cash prizes will also come.

The tournament in Vegas will be against other schools in the region. Winners at the Vegas regionals will have the opportunity to advance to the national tournament.

By EMERALD COLLINS
Staff Writer

The WRC recently opened auditions for their Vagina Monologue event. Attenditions for their program were held in the Santos Manuel Student Union Theatre.

“The Women's Resource Center plans to donate a portion of their proceeds to the women in the Congo Republic to reach out to the rape victims within the Republic on Congo that are being abused on a regular basis,” said Marissa Wollard, WRC’s program assistant.

The Vagina Monologues is a “famous play that includes different interviews, an entertained play that empowers women and teaches them to love their body and not feel shy, disgusted or shameful about their bodies,” said Jackie Lua, employee of the WRC.

The play covers a variety of topics and monologues that enlightens women and encourages them to "not adhere to the social stigma of sexually exploring themselves as women," said Wollard.

According to Wollard, all excerpts begin with introductions that leap into a variety of topics from humorous to serious.

The Vagina Monologues covers excerpts such as “My Angry Vagina” which discusses the blues of mistreatment and “Woman Who Loves to Make Vagina Happy” discusses a same sex encounter.

The WRC recently opened auditions for their Vagina Monologue event. Auditions for their program were held in the Student Union Fourplex Jan. 16-20.

During auditions, students were able to read from a monologue of choice. Student Myrah Ball, auditioning for the performance, expresses her expectations for the monologues describing it as something that covers "vulgar topics, yet empowers women to talk freely about their body parts and allows women to feel more comfortable in their skin."

The Women’s Resource Center employees recommend that both women and men attend the shows.

Wollard quotes "the play is an entirely different experience than watching the movie; it also helps change the way we think."

Venecia Avina, employee at the Adult Re-entry Center, expresses her opinion about the play by quoting "sexuality is a part of life and should be about freely, I like this event because it brings up taboo topics that cover a lot of sexual experiences."

Attendees should expect a play that will make them laugh but also cover serious topics that will be "informative and insightful to learn more about themselves," said Lua.

The WRC will begin its rehearsals next week for their event.
Study tips for a successful school year

By YEZI CHO
Staff Writer

The 2012 winter quarter is upon us. Like many students, everyone expects to have straight A’s on their report cards to make it a reality the following study tips can lead you to a successful quarter.

Go to class every day. It sounds simple but it is the most important and basic thing you should keep in mind. What kind of boss will pay a worker who did not come to work? It is ridiculous if you wish to pass the class even when you don’t attend. Every test question comes from your professor during their lectures. Go to class and get the right information from the right person, at the right time.

Take notes in your own words. When you study, there is nothing more important than understanding the information. Let’s say the professor gives you food, then you are going to digest it to nurture your body. When the professor gives you information, you need to digest and understand the information. It is the ultimate goal of both the professor and students.

Joshee Yang, an international business major, takes her notes with few a easy words. She said, “You don’t have to write down everything the professor says.”

Process the lecture with your own understanding and knowledge. Just jot down only the key points in your own words. Make a group and study together. Many hands make work light. Share information about the class. Ask and teach each other. Group work leads the members to think more critically so that you will have diverse ways to solve problems.

Time management is another way to help you study better. Never put off the assignment or study for the exam until the last minute. You need to make a list of priorities of what is important to study.

Do the most urgent and significant tasks in descending order. If you hold off the work you do not want to do right now, you won’t be able to study well even though you are under a deadline pressure.

When mid-terms and finals are around the corner, you won’t be panicking if you use your time wisely.

Take a rest while you study. Stretching and relaxing during your work is important. If you take a nap between the studies your brain will be fresh and you will be able to concentrate more easily.

Ultimately, if you follow these steps you will succeed in this quarter and get straight A’s.

If you need more information, there are many beneficial workshops and studying skills for the student to study better, visit ugs.csusb.edu/le/tutss.html.

Resolutions become easier to commit to on campus

By MARINA RANGEL
Staff Writer

The month of January sees a spike in hope and commitment to a person that is ready to finally say “NO!” to those chicken nuggets and french fries and walk into that gym they’ve been telling themselves they’ll sign up for tomorrow.

According to the History Channel, making New Year’s resolutions began with the ancient Babylonians who made promises to start the year off right. The act of setting goals to better ourselves has not been lost over time.

“Write down goals or else they’re wishful thinking,” said Student Recreation and Fitness Center staff member, Mark Esho, while coaching me on how to keep close to my resolution of getting fit.

Esho suggested having an external motivator like a new pair of jeans or a girlfriend to help with weight goals; just as the ancient Babylonians made goals to get in good favor with their gods.

There is no doubt that gym memberships rise at the beginning of the year but how informed are those making the decision to become healthier?

As a student, I was unaware of how much opportunity is available at the SRFC.

I never would have guessed students could get an abundance of help from our school in sticking to those resolutions.

The SRFC was the first stop in becoming more informed on the journey of turning my resolution into a success.

“It’s important to take more initiative on getting to the gym and all our programs have created a lot of excitement,” said Erin Brogan, staff member of the SRFC.

A modern campus facility, the SRFC turns five years old in April and offers a variety of workout machines and weights, sauna, 34-foot rock wall, day lockers, multi-purpose gym, personal training and an operational staff to assist with any questions.

As students, the access to these resources is at our finger tips at no extra cost.

Some fun ways to keep that resolution include attending one of the group EX classes in the fitness center. If bench pressing and pull-ups aren’t your ideal way to reaching your goals, try dance options like hip hop, Zumba or belly dancing. Numerous self-defense classes are offered and a range of intensity courses from yoga and pilates to circuit training and boot camp can be explored.

Personal Training is one of the few programs that cost students extra, but are great for those of us that need a little guidance in planning our road to eating better and working out.

Many New Year’s resolutions fall short of success but being healthier does not need to be one of them with resources like ours. Visiting recsports.csusb.edu can provide students with wellness tips and upcoming fitness events.

“I lost 40 pounds last year and I want to lose more this year; you just have to do it,” said student Sally Nguyen. She is a witness to resolutions being more than dreams.
Students change majors in the pursuit of happiness

By EDWARD HEWITT
Staff Writer

Is this major right for me? Can I see myself happily doing this for the rest of my life? Do I have a passion for this field?

Across the country many college students ranging from first time freshmen, indecisive sophomores and juniors to fifth or sixth year seniors will have addressed questions like these at least once over the course of their college career.

It is a general consensus that most are more focused upon those that change their major, which may be the reason many students are reluctant to do so. The decision itself can be life changing simply because it requires a lot of thought and preparation.

An abundance of factors seem to be important when making these judgments. Things like your potential success in classes, graduation rates, pay differences, hiring rates and ultimate happiness within yourself for the field of study you have chosen all play a role in your ultimate decision making.

CSUSB’s Office of Institutional Research, reported 5,271 students, transfers and freshmen, that have changed their major over the past thirteen years.

Out of the undergraduates who graduated with their degree in the school years of 2008-2009 or 2009-2010, a total of 1,227 freshmen changed their major at least once during their college career, and 1,478 transfer students changed their major at least once during their college career. This proves that changing your major is more common than was initially realized.

When asked how far along in school were you when you realized your major was not right for you? Natalia Manzary a fourth year student, answered, “It was spring quarter of my second year, after taking my pre-requisites I realized that science was not for me. I thought about how difficult it would be for me, and if I would actually want to struggle through my major courses throughout the rest of my college years compared to actually taking courses I understand and enjoy.”

As students entering college we sometimes get caught up in doing the things that are expected by our parents, teachers, culture or any other outside influences rather than pursuing the fields we feel passionate about.

College is usually seen as just another learning curve in life; the time where we learn who we are as people or the type of person we want to be in life. Why wouldn’t you want to pursue the best outcome for yourself or enter a career that you feel fits you best?

Such decisions should be based on your lifelong aspirations because at the end of the day you will be the one who has to deal with them.

Students should never fear change; change can be viewed as a path to becoming a better you. It is only natural to want the best in life.

If changing your major is something you feel will aid you to a path of success, it should not be something you pass up. Be bold in your pursuit of happiness.

Competitors get ready for the big shots

Continued from Pg. 7

prizes and prizes for college too.”

Unlike traditional pool rules, nine-ball is only played with ten billiard balls: the balls marked one through nine and the tenth being the cue ball.

Competitors take turns shooting and continue until they miss.

Each time a shot is made the cue ball must hit the ball with the lowest number on it first.

The object is to sink the nine ball for the win.

The game can be won by sinking the nine ball at any time as long as the smallest number on the table is hit by the cue ball.

Conversely, one can successfully pocket balls one through eight and still lose if his or her opponent manages to sink the nine ball.

Pruett defeated his competition, I asked Tuan Hyunh what he planned to do in Vegas, if he did indeed win the tournament.

“The plan is to relax, since you’re in Vegas,” responded Hyunh, “and if you win your pool game, hey, that’s good for the school because you put our name out there, you know?”
Elizabeth Grant, known by her stage name Lana Del Rey, has made a huge splash in the entertainment world without really doing anything. Her not-so-enlightening performance on Saturday Night Live proved that she may have more work to do.

By YETUNDE KEME
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Grant, known by her stage name Lana Del Rey, has made a huge splash in the entertainment world without really doing anything. Her not-so-enlightening performance on Saturday Night Live proved that she may have more work to do.

Although Del Rey is known for her unique creativity in her music, the 25-year-old New York native, whose real name is Elizabeth Grant, was recently criticized for her not-so-enlightening performance on Saturday Night Live. Actress Juliette Lewis made a statement on Twitter that her SNL performance, “…was like watching a 12-year-old in their bedroom when they’re pretending to sing and perform.”

Another critic, Nick Denton of Gawker Media, also described the singer’s performance as, “one of the worst outings in SNL history.”

In Del Rey’s defense, this was her first major televised performance. Though what she lacks in performance ability, she makes up for in originality.

Del Rey had an interview with FacetCulture, a Dutch entertainment news column, back in 2011. One of the topics discussed in the interview was her creative influences. “I personally find a lot of inspiration being at home in New York and Brooklyn; it’s where my friends are and I just feel inspired by the city,” Del Rey said.

Del Rey also said that the recurring themes of her album and songwriting includes honoring love when it’s lost, staying strong in the midst of true love being lost, and staying hopeful and soft even when things become difficult.

Although Del Rey is busy touring, she has some optimistic feelings about the preparation and release of her upcoming new album, Born to Die, which will be released Jan. 31. “I’m ready because I’ve written the album and I knew exactly what I wanted for this album,” Del Rey said. “I need time to work on the production for last quarter of the album and then to go through the mixes of everything which is sort of tedious.”

She also feels inspired by the city, New York and Brooklyn; it’s where my friends are and I just feel inspired by the city,” Del Rey said. “I’m ready because I’ve written the album and I knew exactly what I wanted for this album,” Del Rey said. “I need time to work on the production for last quarter of the album and then to go through the mixes of everything which is sort of tedious.”

Del Rey favors vintage imagery in most of her music videos, including the video for her popular hit single, “Blue Jeans.”

“I think a lot of the reasons why I chose the clips from the era of the 50s and 60s is mainly because I actually disliked the quality of the film that the directors used during that time,” Del Rey said.

Her views of vintage imagery seem to contradict her unique, creative style. Although her voice may need some serious work for better performance in the future, the song “Blue Jeans” has a lively and edgy lyrical tone. In the song she sings, “Big dreams, gangster/Said you had to leave to start your life over/I was like, ‘no please, stay here,’/We don’t need no money we can make it all work.”

The SNL performance will be a lesson to Del Rey, as she continues to practice her performance techniques for future shows. She has the potential to shine in the spotlight, but more work on her performance ability will get her further in the music industry.

By BRIAN CHIDUEME
Staff Writer

Basketball has the NBA Finals. Football has the Super Bowl. In the world of filmmaking, the Academy Awards (aka the Oscars) are the major leagues.

This year, a collective of films from “The Descendants” to “Moneyball,” are competing to gain recognition, honor and legacy in these major leagues.

What puts the Golden Globes and Oscars in different leagues is that the Golden Globes is under the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (or HFPA). As British comic and host Ricky Gervais jokingly admitted in his opening monologue, “The Golden Globes are just like the Oscars without all that esteem.”

That “esteem” comes in the form of the Academy itself, and the list of films competing for the chance to join the ranks of some of the most and greatest significant American films of all time, such as “Fargo,” “Forrest Gump,” “Titanic” and “Saving Private Ryan.”

This means another year of surprises, another year of snubs, and another year of innovative actors, actresses, filmmakers and movies to emerge on top as the best of the best.

According to indiewIRE, only a select few films will emerge with honors from the Academy’s Big Five. The five consists of Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, Best Actress and Best Adapted or Original Screenplay.

For Best Picture: silent-film homage “The Artist,” crowd-pleasers “The Help” and “The Descendants,” “Midnight in Paris,” and “Hugo” are five popular predictions of which film will take home the pinnacle prize. There is a huge possibility that “The Descendants” will get snubbed and passed up by “The Artist” for Best Picture, but the big underdog could be either Terrence Malick’s “The Tree of Life” or Martin Scorsese’s “Hugo.”

For Best Director: Michel Hazanavicius (“The Artist”), Martin Scorsese (“Hugo”), Terrence Malick (“The Tree of Life”), Alexander Payne (“The Descendants”) and David Fincher (“The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo”) are five main possibilities for the prize. This could be the year Scorsese adds another merit to his lengthy list of contributions to cinema, from “Taxi Driver” and “Raging Bull” to “The Departed.” Will Malick be able to pull off an upset?

For Best Actor, popular predictions include George Clooney (“The Descendants”), Brad Pitt (“Moneyball”), Leonardo DiCaprio (“J. Edgar”), Michael Fassbender (“Shame”) and Jean Dujardin (“The Artist”). This category just might be home to one of the biggest upsets in Oscar history, courtesy of Fassbender’s critically-acclaimed performance as a sex-addict descending into hell.

For Best Actress, predictions include Viola Davis (“The Help”), Michelle Williams (“My Week With Marilyn”), Meryl Streep (“The Iron Lady”), Tilda Swinton (“We Need to Talk About Kevin”), and Kirsten Dunst (“Melancholia”). While Williams, Davis and Swinton are three popular choices to snub Streep in the wake of her recent Golden Globe win, Dunst could be this category’s unexpected choice with her recent win at the 2011 Cannes Film Festival for Best Actress is factored in.

For Best Original/Adapted Screenplay, predictions are not limited to: Woody Allen (“Midnight in Paris”), Will Reiser (“50/50”), Aaron Sorkin and Steve Zaillian (“Moneyball”), John Logan (“Hugo”) and the writing trio of “The Descendants” (Nat Faxon, Alexander Payne and Jim Rash). “Moneyball” could possibly be this year’s secondary runner next to “The Descendants.” Woody Allen could pull off an upset in this category, but those chances are slim.

This year’s Oscars could be one of the most surprising shows in Academy history due to several great films competing for prestige in filmmaking’s big leagues.

Warming up for the film world’s major leagues...
Syd the Kyd teams up with Matt Martians to create a hypnotic album

By RYAN HESTER
Staff Writer

Syd the Kyd and Matt Martians of OFWGKTA have formed a new group that is wildly different from their collective counterparts. Their new group, dubbed The Internet, takes a more soulful and easygoing approach. Syd, also known as Sydney Bennett and Matt Martians, also known as Matthew Martin, engineered and produced the album with no outside help.

“We made [Purple Naked Ladies] in my bedroom with live instruments. All songs were mixed, recorded, arranged, written, produced by Syd and I,” said Matt Martians. “We originally made it for ourselves only but [our manager] suggested we share it with the world.”

The Internet’s electro-hypnotic sound is what makes them different from everyone else. The album is very chill and laid back with a psychedelic feel. Syd’s voice is reminiscent of Jill Scott, Erykah Badu and Sade with her soft sensuality, and she fills the album with electro hip-hop beats, a soulful, jazzy feel. The album has definitely set the bar this year for Odd Future spin-offs.

Much of the album feels like a roller coaster, due to frequent and abrupt tonal changes which permeate through a few songs. The changes could have been put together a little better, but for the most part the artists did a great job. Syd’s imaginative, personal lyrics and vocal style will appeal to fans of soulful music. Her words always tell a story in a dark, twisted way.

The top tracks were “Cocaine,” “They Say,” “Ode To A Dream (Featuring Kilo Kish & Coco O.),” “Love Song– 1” and “Fast Lane.”

The album is unique and has many interesting tracks and beats. Syd and Matt’s sound directly contrasts from the more abrasive work of OFWGKTA cronies Tyler, the Creator and Earl Sweatshirt.

Helping out on the album are fellow Odd Future members Left Brain, Mike G and Pyramid Vritra. Other guest artists include Coco O., Tay Walker and Kilo Kish.

With the potential that both artists have, the album is a solid 7 out of 10. It isn’t perfect, but it proves that Syd and Matt are full of promise and have nowhere to go but up.

Odd Future spinners get soulful

By KIMBERLY ROSALES
Staff Writer

A few recently debuted television shows are expected to be the heavy hitters in a new year of television programming for 2012. But not all syndicated programs are safe. Shows like “New Girl” and “2 Broke Girls” have become unexpected hits for their respective networks.

FOX’s “New Girl” premiered with approximately 10.3 million viewers while CBS’s “2 Broke Girls” premiered with approximately 19.4 million viewers. TV by the Numbers reports that both shows have retained their higher rating in their time slots on primetime broadcasting.

“2 Broke Girls” however has recently been rocked by criticism. Entertainment Weekly reported that the show is being criticized for depicting stereotypes and disrespectful jokes.

Despite the backlash, “2 Broke Girls” maintains good ratings with 11.4 million viewers this past Monday.

Comedies such as NBC’s “Community” and ABC’s “Cougar Town” have also experienced turmoil in a different light.

“Community” stopped airing mid-season and “Cougar Town” was not renewed immediately, leaving fans to think both shows might be next on their network’s chopping block.

The future of “Community” is still on hold. “Cougar Town,” however, will replace “Work It.”

Another new and controversial show, “Work It” was targeted by the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Both the HRC and GLAAD accused the show of poking fun at transgendered people. With all the backlash and low ratings, “Work It” was canceled after only two episodes.

Much less divisive shows are doing well, including the dramas “American Horror Story” on FX, ABC’s “Last Man Standing,” “Suburgatory,” and “Happy Endings” as well as their freshman drama “Revenge.”

Ratings for “American Horror Story” were at their highest during its season finale in late December. Since FX is a cable network, the show was able to out perform other cable shows, such as TV Land’s comedy “Hot in Cleveland.”

Due to the show’s success, “American Horror Story” will return for a second season with new cast members as an anthology show.

ABC’s comedy “Last Man Standing” is doing well, outnumbering FOX’s popular series “Glee” with 8.6 million viewers.

ABC newcomers, “Suburgatory” and “Happy Endings” matched their season lows due to FOX’s long-running “American Idol.” However, “Suburgatory” topped over its competition, NBC’s “Are You There, Chelsea?”

ABC’s drama “Revenge” increased its viewership by 4 percent and is slowly building to be a hit show, while drama “Pan Am” was canceled and “Body of Proof” continues to be at risk.
“Joyful Noise” is a feel-good, inspirational musical comedy that can make you sing and cry, but is not without its flaws. The movie was a hit with the viewers on moviefone.com, but a flop with critics.

With strong female leads such as Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton, how could the film go wrong? The acting is great, the jokes are funny and the drama is touching, but the movie is long with useless subplots and excessive foul language.

The small town of Pacashau, Ga. is counting on the Divinity Church Choir to win the National Joyful Noise Competition. The choir is known for their beautiful harmonies and traditional style, but tension between Vi Rose Hill (Queen Latifah), the new choir director, and G.G. Sparrow (Dolly Parton) may be jeopardizing their chances at Nationals.

Vi Rose’s traditional style is being pushed down and out by G.G.’s rebellious grandson Randy (Jeremy Jordan), who also catches the eye of Vi Rose’s daughter Olivia (Keke Palmer). The connection between the two teenagers increases the tension between Vi Rose and G.G. To make the most joyful noise, these two women must find a way to put aside their differences for the sake of the choir.

Director and writer Todd Graff did a good job with the script. The storyline is great and easy to follow, but drags on. There are side-stories in the movie that are funny and entertaining, but these subplots, that are supposed to be something small, end up playing too big a part in the movie.

One subplot concerns a woman from the choir and her romantic life. Viewers know it isn’t the main story, so it is confusing when the movie concludes with the resolution to the woman’s romantic life. This relationship between this subplot and the main plot is so tenuous that it seems awkward to end the movie with it.

What the movie lacks in the screenplay it makes up for with its impressive musical presentation. The gospel twist of very well-known songs such as “Sign, Sealed, Delivered,” and “Forever” by Chris Brown boosts viewer’s approval of this movie. Unfortunately, critics were not so easily swayed by the bells and whistles and stuck with their low rating.

The best way to watch the movie is with an open mind and without any expectations. The trailers portray the movie as a funny, spiritual, musical family movie, which makes it easy to overlook the PG-13 rating.

The movie received its rating for ‘some language and sexual references.’ The amount of foul language in this movie was more than expected. The sexual references were concealed with humorous tone. If you attend the movie expecting to entertain the entire family, you may be disappointed.

Though it isn’t perfect, “Joyful Noise” is certainly pleasurable, and will get even the stiffest film lovers on their feet.
Coyote basketball climbs to the top with sizeable success

The men's basketball team has been using an impressive balanced scoring attack, allowing them to be successful so far this year

By JAZMIN JETT
Staff Writer

On Jan. 4, the CSUSB men’s basketball team claimed the CCAA lead after their victory against Cal State East Bay.

In addition to reaching first place, this win marked team coach Jeff Oliver’s 200th win.

Oliver credits the team’s success to adamant defense, a height advantage and a balanced scoring attack.

The team’s height advantage, aside from their talent, contributed to their win against San Francisco State.

The six tallest players towered over the opposing team. “Bigs,” as former CSUSB player Aaron Hill referred to them, also take advantage of their height while on offense.

“When we kick it to the ‘bigs’ on the inside and begin scoring, the opposing team doubles our tallest guys, leaving our guards open on the outside,” said Hill.

The “bigs” have proved to be the core of the team: two of the three averaging double digits every game.

Other strategies exerted were elaborated by Hill, “When shots don’t fall in from the outside, move in towards inside . . . shoot layups and draw fouls.”

The recipe for success for the men’s basketball team this season has been their notable height advantage and defense.

State during the holiday season, an impressive 19 point victory for the Coyotes.

Our team’s balanced scoring was apparent with Vaughn Adams and Theron Lamerdmill each scoring 14 points, and Tre Brewer and Juan Martinez both chipping in with 10.

Most of the team’s points were made in the second half as they generated a dominant 61 percent shooting average.

Their win against East Bay was quite the exuberant one.

Players Tre Brewer, Theron Lamerdmill, Kwame Alexander and Johnny Bell concluded the game with double digit scores.

Hakeem Washington managed five assists in the game as well.

When asked about the team’s preconceived notion on playing East Bay, Hill answered “We knew East Bay would be a tough match up . . . their ‘bigs’ aren’t that tall but they excel in athletics.”

CSUSB held Cal State East Bay to a one point lead during a 5-6 minute stretch during the bottom of the first half, which gave them the upper hand and led them to the win.

Senior Nate Roth was named CCAA’s Men’s Basketball Player of the Week.

Roth, a guard, contributed 20 impressive points to the team’s win against UC San Diego while also dishing out eight assists.

With the way his players have been performing as of late, coach Oliver has every reason to remain optimistic for the remainder of the season.

Basketball, as we all know, is a team sport, and thus requires a team effort in order for the team to be successful.

This is exactly what Oliver’s team has provided.

CSUSB has dominated their conference this season so far with an 8-2 record, and have an impressive 9-4 record overall.

Coach Oliver hopes to accompany their recent success with several other wins. The ultimate goal still remains becoming NCAA West Regional Champs and eventually becoming the NCAA National Champs.

Lady ‘Yotes keep playoffs in sight

By SHYNEESE WALTER
Staff Writer

In the women’s basketball team recent loss to Monterey Bay, freshmen Briana Baker and Shayna Stuart did all they could for the Lady Coyotes.

Both Baker and Stuart had their season highs in points as Baker contributed 11 points along with five rebounds, while Stuart added 10 points and five rebounds of her own.

Coach Kevin Becker said he believed this was a tough game for his team.

Briana and Shayna are both freshmen who are learning the system, but continue to make solid contributions.

Becker expressed his excitement over the fact that both freshmen played with great hustle and effort throughout the entire contest.

Although he was content with the effort the girls displayed against Monterey Bay, Becker wanted more out of his leading scorers, Eliza Dy and Angela Streets, who combined for only one basket.

He believes that in order to have a positive outcome and compete he needs a consistent performance from Dy and Streets on a nightly basis.

Dy and Streets struggled with their field goal shooting throughout the game against Monterey Bay.

Despite their hot shooting as of late, and the contribution of over 50 percent of the team’s field goals in the season, they combined for a dismal .04 percent shooting performance.

Dy ended the game with four points, shooting 1 of 17 from the floor, and Streets had not made a shot before she fouled out.

By halftime the Lady Coyotes were down 31 to 22. They were able to slice into the Others’ lead with a jumper from Stuart and a free throw from Streets.

At one point they were only within one basket of tying the game, but two free throws and a jumper from Shonetta Crane-Williams gave Monterey Bay a cushion that would prove to be enough.

Baker, shooting five of 13 from the field, and Stuart hitting four out of her five attempts kept the team close, but close wasn’t good enough.

The victory for Cal State Monterey Bay was their fifth straight against the Coyotes.

The Lady Coyotes are a very young team and are still learning the system but have settled down lately and have begun playing lock down team defense. Their offensive has been lacking, however.

In some of their close losses, they have not shot the ball very well.

“When Eliza and Angela shoot well, we can present some problems for the opponent. We are not very deep on the bench right now due to some injuries so our top players have to show up, compete and be consistent,” said Becker.

Becker expressed his desire to remain positive for the rest of the season even with two road games against San Francisco State and Cal Poly Pomona coming up.

Becker feels that with hard work, a healthy roster and determined players, his team could still compete and potentially qualify for the CCAA Tournament.

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By SHYNEESE WALTER
Staff Writer
CSUSB alum paving way for NBA dreams

By ZION GUILLORY
Staff Writer

I
van Johnson, a rookie power forward rookie for the Atlanta Hawks and former CSUSB student has recently made quite a splash off the bench in a Jan. 5 victory against the Miami Heat. Fans and critics are already calling him “Ivan the Terrible,” and his overly impressive game has definitely sparked a bit of media buzz.

Fans are anxiously waiting to find out just who this bearded rookie is, where he came from and exactly what he can do. The Texas native contributed 13 points and four rebounds in his first game against a team whom many people consider to be the best in the league. Johnson played with much confidence and focus in the game.

During the fourth quarter with about 11 minutes left, he wowed the crowd by hitting a quick jumper right in the face of Heat forward Chris Bosh. The shot followed a deep three by Heat guard Mario Chalmers which might have otherwise become a momentum shifting basket.

Twenty seconds after Chalmers’ field goal, Johnson drove to the paint and converted a powerful layup.

The crowd went wild as he then proceeded to sink two clutch free throws which gave the Hawks a 75-71 advantage late in the game. The game went into triple overtime before the Hawks ultimately prevailed.

Johnson’s play left many people, including future hall-of-famer Charles Barkley, astonished.

Johnson has held quite a journey before entering into the NBA. He attended three different colleges including: University of Oregon (2005-06), Los Angeles Southwest Junior College (2004-05) and Cisco Junior College in Texas (2002-03) before entering CSUSB in 2006.

In 2007, Johnson continued his basketball career in the NBA Development League (D-League) where he traveled overseas to locations such as Korea and Puerto Rico.

During those years, Johnson never fell short in the scoring department. His playoff numbers were even more impressive, as they drastically rose. He averaged 23 points per game, nine rebounds, and three assists, showing his ability to excel on the big stage.

Not without controversy, however, Johnson is known for having a hot head. While playing in Korea, Johnson flipped off an official and was banned from playing in the Korean Basketball League (KBL).

He also received many technical fouls throughout his career in the D-League.

Johnson is aware of his reputation and has made it clear that he has every intention of changing his ways.

In a recent interview with the Atlanta Journal Constitution, he vowed to change his temperament.

With his impressive performances so far, fans anticipate seeing more of him on the court.

His aggression and fierce competitive spirit leave crowds anticipating what’s next.

So far this season, Johnson has averaged nearly five points per game, 3.4 rebounds, and .3 assists coming off the Hawks’ bench.

With the impressions he has made on the league, it wouldn’t be surprising to see Johnson in a starting role before the end of the season.

Johnson’s story can inspire and motivate young athletes with a love for the game of basketball.

Specifically here at CSUSB, where student athletes can see that the school you play for, or the division your school is in has nothing to do with your ability to be successful and make it into the NBA.
CSUSB water polo strives for greatness as they start their season Jan. 29 at University of Redlands.

The team has set group and personal goals such as establishing great teamwork, gaining speed and utilizing a large roster.

"100 percent every time," said coach Sarah Reneker who is also an alumni of CSUSB. The team has set continuous goals from last season while changing from 12 to 20 players on the roster. "Execution is our main goal," continued Reneker.

Fortunately, they only lost two players last season to graduation. Returning this season are vital players such as Captain Misty Vu and seniors Shelle Kocher, Jasmine Duran and Meghan McCarthy.

The team practices four hours a day, waking up early for a 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. practice session every morning. They continue to work on ball handling skills, familiarizing themselves with their opponents and multitasking, which is considered the hardest part of the sport.

The four-hour practices consist of three hours in water and one hour on dry land. Dry land means heavy weight and cardiovascular training.

Coach Reneker will run a tight set defense and an even stronger press defense in order to run a counter this season.

"My personal goal is to be the number one set player in my conference," said Kocher.

Winning will not be the only reward this season for all their hard work. Senior Jasmine Duran has promised that if the team can win more than half of their games, she will allow her teammates to shave her head.

Duran hopes to be hairless before the start of important matches. "I want to beat Cal State Monterey Bay," continued Duran.

Ending last season with only two players coming off the bench did not cut it for coach Reneker. She has stacked the roster with an extra eight girls to give athletes more rest time.

Water polo participates in the NCAA Division II section along with the other CSUSB sports. UCSD is considered to be a rival for most, but these women have their eyes set on Cal State Eastbay.

"I want to beat Eastbay," said McCarthy, voicing the desire of the team.

Last seasons performance against Cal State Eastbay left a bitter taste in their mouths. They guarantee this season will be different.

Captain Misty Vu could not choose one school to beat; she is determined to defeat them all and to play at the top of her game.

"I want to be an All-American," said Vu.

Vu had to red shirt her freshman year making this her third season. Luckily she will be returning for another season.

The CCAA division has a reputation of being tough. Some of the best teams hold ranking in these divisions, but coach Reneker is optimistic in her team’s performance.

The team kicks off the year with a tournament Jan. 29 – leaving them less than two weeks to prepare.

In this tournament they will face the University of Redlands and Whittier College.

Their first scheduled game is Feb. 2 versus Pomona Pitzer.
**Coyote Chronicle: Athlete of the Week**

**Name:** Kristen Huffman  
**Sport:** Women's Basketball  
**Class:** Junior  

**Moment:** Jan. 13-14 vs. Cal State Monterey Bay & Cal State East Bay  

Kristen Huffman had a great week, as she averaged 19 points and 11 rebounds. After losing to Cal State Monterey Bay, the Coyotes bounced back to beat Cal State East Bay thanks in large part to Huffman’s play. In addition to her scoring and rebounding, she averaged 36 minutes.

**More about:**  
As a junior at El Camino High School, she earned the Capital Athletic League MVP award and Athlete of the Week at the school. She currently is a sociology major.

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**By BRITTNEY CARTER Staff Writer**

CSUSB men’s basketball recently triumphed over Cal State East Bay was a victory like no other for Coyote’s head coach, Jeff Oliver. That night marked 200 wins with the division with an impressive 8-2 league record.

They have one game advantage over Cal Poly Pomona and are currently at the halfway mark in the conference. Nevertheless, Coach Oliver has great plans in mind for the Coyotes.

His next goal is to take first place in the California Collegiate Conference and to seek to become number one in the nation.

If Oliver can carry the team to the conference, it will be Cal State San Bernardino’s first appearance in the national conference tournament.

“We have maintained our top spot and have been the most successful team in the country,” said Oliver adding, “I would like to make it to nationals — the elite.”

Currently, Humboldt State is number one in the California Collegiate Conference. CSUSB is second.

Coach Oliver and his team had a unique opportunity to close the gap when they played against Humboldt State last Friday night.

Unfortunately, they fell just short as they went on to lose the tightly contested game.

Oliver spent two years as an assistant coach at Ventura University. He helped lead them to the state championships in the 1995-96 season.

His next coaching assignment was as the head coach at San Bernardino Valley College where he was named Conference Coach of the Year.

Oliver joined the CSUSB coaching staff in 1998-99 and has been dedicated to the team ever since.

When former head coach Larry Reynolds left the coaching staff, the Coyotes had already conquered the No. 2 spot in the regional conference. Oliver is determined to make sure the team can excel and become the No. 1 university in Division II.

“I can’t complain; we just need to improve on our technique,” Oliver said.

Overall, Oliver is very pleased with the way he has grown as a head coach, and is also pleased with the way his team has grown and come together.

Minor areas for improvement for the remainder of the season include execution and technique.

So far it’s been a prosperous season and the Coyotes are confident that they can put themselves in position to compete for a title.

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**Pond, Caruso and Day look to make it “big”**

Top prospects in this year’s baseball team are hoping to impress scouts with an outstanding season.

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**By SPENCER HIRSCH Staff Writer**

Josh Pond, Cory Caruso, and Brandon Day are looking to follow in Aaron Brooks’ footsteps.

Pond, Caruso, and Day would love to have a deep playoff run and make it all the way to the NCAA Division II Baseball College World Series in North Carolina.

The icing on the cake for the three of them will occur at season’s end in June if they are drafted and sign with a major league team.

Coyote right-handed pitching phenomenon Aaron Brooks did it last year as he was drafted and signed by the Kansas City Royals.

Pond, Caruso, and Day hope to be the next Coyotes to turn pro.

“I have always been my dream to play professional baseball. That is my ultimate goal,” said left-handed pitcher Caruso.

“It would be great getting to do something on a daily basis that I have grown to love,” said first baseman Day.

Pond was selected by the San Diego Padres, while Caruso was selected by the Florida Marlins (now Miami Marlins) in last year’s MLB draft, but they did not end up signing.

They hope their second go round will lead to them not only getting drafted, but signing with the team that drafts them.

“For me, it meant a lot to make the draft last year. The past is the past. I just want to stay focused and have a good season. We just focus on that, the rest will take care of itself,” said Pond.

Each one of them hopes to have a big senior season and impress major league scouts by the time the draft comes around.

As a hitter, he feels he needs to be able to hit to all sides of the field in order to become a more complete hitter.

Pond said that he needs to attack the zone more and not get behind in the count as often, so he can allow his defense to work behind him.

Caruso pointed to consistency, hard work in the weight room and focusing on what he can control as the keys for him to standout.

An MLB National League scout, who asked to not be identified, summed up what pro scouts look for in pitchers and position players:

“What we look for in pitchers is arm action, delivery, and secondary stuff. What we look for in position players is athleticism, bat speed, ability to play the game, and work ethic.”

Pond, Caruso, and Day had outstanding seasons last year and hope to repeat that this year.

Pond, Caruso, and Day have the highest batting average at .356 and the most RBIs at 33 opportunities. Their talents made him the school’s single season and career saves record holder.

According to the CSUSB’s athletic page, that mark tied him for the NCAA lead in saves for the season as well as tying the single-season California Collegiate Athletic Association saves record.

Caruso struck out 44 hitters in 64.1 innings pitched last season, which was second behind Brooks, who had 78 strikeouts in 92 innings pitched.

Day led the way on offense last season, having the highest batting average at .356 and the most RBIs at 33.

According to milb.com, the first-year player draft takes place from June 4 through June 6.

Check out the Coyote athletic page in June to see if Pond, Caruso, Day and any other players on this year’s team get drafted.

Also come and support them along with the entire team as they open up their season at home against Arizona Pacific on Thursday, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m.