Connecting to Success

Proven Strategies Ensure Student Achievement

2012–2013
Honor Roll of Donors
Greetings! In May 2013, I was honored to have been permanently appointed the eighth president of California State University, Dominguez Hills by the CSU Board of Trustees. I am very pleased to continue working with our outstanding students, faculty, and staff to bring CSU Dominguez Hills to new levels of success.

This university has a history of providing high impact educational practices that help students integrate into the campus community, navigate the university environment, improve the skills they need for academic success, and discover the joy of meaningful and engaged learning. Moving forward, my leadership will continue to be marked with a steadfast commitment to these practices, as well as other academic programs and services that have proven to not only increase grade point averages and graduation rates, but also post-graduate aspirations, career possibilities, and earning potential.

Many of our initiatives are nationally recognized due to their effectiveness in helping students overcome obstacles to graduation, especially those encountered by underserved or first-generation students. In this issue of Dominguez Today, we introduce you to students whose success is a direct result of their hard work and immersion into programs designed specifically to connect them to the full range of university resources and empower them to become active, responsible learners.

You will read about the Male Success Alliance (MSA), an ongoing university program that provides mentoring, guidance, and support to male students of color and offers a pathway to academic success and college degree attainment. MSA lets young men know they can achieve beyond what is often thought or asked of them.

CSU Dominguez Hills students succeed in our supportive community that focuses their motivation, challenges them intellectually, and empowers them to recognize and seek out new opportunities for themselves and their community. As president, I am deeply committed to building upon this transformative environment and am honored to work with a faculty and staff who are equally vested in elevating student success grounded in academic excellence.

Sincerely,

Willie J. Hagan, Ph.D.
President
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We want to hear from you!
Email your letter to the editor, in 250 words or less, to abentleysmith@csudh.edu

Please include your name, year of graduation if you are a CSUDH alumni, address, and daytime phone number. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the editor and may be edited for publication.

To change name or mailing address, email arayas@csudh.edu or call (310) 243-2182.
New Deans, Familiar Faces

Two familiar faces with years of commitment to the university were promoted to deans of their respective colleges and began their new roles this academic year.

College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Munashe Furusa has served the university for the past 13 years as a professor and department chair of Africana studies, chair of the Academic Senate, executive director of the California African American Political and Economic Institute on campus, the college’s acting associate dean, and most recently as its acting dean. He has been honored with the university’s Excellence in Service Award in 2008, and the Lyle E. Gibson Dominguez Hills Distinguished Teacher Award in 2004.

College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences

Dr. Rod Hay came to CSU Dominguez Hills in 1996 as a member of the college’s Department of Earth Science faculty teaching ge-

University Takes Seat at Table for National Discussions on College Affordability

CSU Dominguez Hills stepped on the national stage in the discussion of President Barack Obama’s college affordability plan with two U.S. Department of Education invitations in the course of a few weeks this fall. In late October, University President Willie J. Hagan was asked to participate in a College Affordability Roundtable between U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and leaders of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) universities and community colleges across the nation. The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) hosted the private meeting during its annual conference in Chicago.

Then on Nov. 6, CSU Dominguez Hills was the first university in the nation to host a U.S. Department of Education public forum on the topic. Nearly 50 educational administrators, professors, students, and advocacy groups testified before U.S. Under Secretary for Education Martha Kanter, U.S. Deputy Under Secretary for Education Jamienne Studley, and policy adviser David Soo during the day-long forum.

CSU Dominguez Hills faculty leaders and student leaders also had a chance to sit down and share their thoughts with Under Secretary Kanter in separate meetings.

“This campus was an appropriate venue for such a hearing, given our long history of access, affordability, and helping all students, including many disadvantaged students, achieve a quality college education,” Hagan said.
ography. He chaired the department from 1999 to 2002 and again in 2004. In 2005 he was appointed associate dean of the college and also began serving as the director of the on-campus Center for Urban Environmental Research. He was the 2004 recipient of the university’s Presidential Outstanding Professor Award.

Chief IT Officer Keeps Campus Connected

Chris Manriquez was named the university’s chief information technology officer (CITO) in December 2012. With over 15 years of experience as an IT administrator with the CSU, he has managed the implementation of a wide range of enterprise IT initiatives. As CITO, Manriquez is responsible for providing leadership and support in information technology for the entire campus. Key initiatives he is currently overseeing include completion of the university web site redesign; rollout of updated laptops, desktops and iPads for faculty and staff; new student computing lab; an Adobe software license agreement for campus and at-home use for faculty, staff and students; and a Microsoft student at-home software license agreement.

College of Education Awarded Federal Grants

The College of Education has been awarded two significant grants for programs that support teacher and school leadership training.

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Innovation and Improvement awarded a School Leadership Program grant for $9.6 million over five years to the college for its proposal to establish the Innovative School Leadership Initiative. Through ISLI, principals and teacher-leaders from 30 of the lowest-performing charter and pilot schools in Los Angeles Unified School District will receive professional development, mentorship, and earn advanced administration certification or degrees. The program aims to improve student achievement by providing sustained support for the entire school leadership team.

The National Science Foundation awarded the college $800,000 to fund a second phase of the university’s existing Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program for math and science students interested in teaching. The program will serve 30

(Continued on page 4)

Permanent Leadership

In May, the California State University Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Willie J. Hagan as permanent president of California State University, Dominguez Hills. He had served as interim president since June 2012, during which time his leadership had been marked by an unwavering commitment toward student academic success and focused on dramatically improving graduation rates and time to degree. He successfully increased transparency in university governance and identified and reallocated university resources to support strategic priorities, including investing in faculty and staff hiring, instructional and laboratory equipment, information technology, and proven high-impact student success programs.

“To say I am honored to have been appointed as president of CSU Dominguez Hills would be an understatement,” Hagan said. “I look forward to continuing to work with our gifted faculty, dedicated staff, and inspirational students to advance this remarkable institution and our students.”
junior and senior biology, chemistry, mathematics, or physics majors and provide financial support, advising, peer mentorship, and paid teacher assistant positions. Students commit to earning their single-subject credential and teaching in a high-need school in LAUSD for four years upon completion of the program.

Among the National Ranks for Diversity and Affordability

Each year, CSU Dominguez Hills appears on a number of national college rankings, and 2012-2013 was no exception. The university once again made the *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* “Top 100 Minority Degree Producers” list, ranking 52nd in granting undergraduate degrees to minority students, and was in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual “Best Colleges” ranking as among the most ethnically diverse universities in the western U.S. It also appeared on a number of lists put out by Online Colleges Database, including “Top Colleges in California for Future Services Members” (7th), “Popular U.S. Colleges for Hispanic Students” (26th) and “Highest Starting Salary Colleges” (30th), and was 49th in the Affordable Colleges Online web site’s “Top 50 Highest ROI Colleges in California.”

Online degree programs at CSU Dominguez Hills were also recognized, including number one “Most Affordable Online College” on AffordableCollegesOnline.org and GetEducated.com’s “Best Buy Online: Master’s in Psychology and Human Services” for the master’s in negotiation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. In addition, GetEducated.com ranked the university in several other of its listings, including second for “Best Buy: Online Master’s Engineering” for the master’s in quality assurance program, eighth for “Best Buy: Online Master’s in Public Administration,” and 14th for “Most Affordable for Online Nursing.”

Chancellor White Visits CSU Dominguez Hills Campus

Timothy P. White, who became the seventh chancellor of the California State University system in December 2012, paid a visit to CSU Dominguez Hills on April 23, 2013, as part of a larger CSU campus tour to become familiar with the uniqueness of each campus.

During his one-day visit, he visited an anthropology class, took a tour of campus, during which he stopped to talk to students and staff, spoke privately to a number of campus constituents, and held a town hall for the entire campus community.

Providing a Toro welcome, students in the Department of Theatre and Dance surprised him with a “flash mob dance” in the Loker Student Union, where he also got down and did some break dancing himself. A photo of his efforts ended up on the front page of the *L.A. Times* the next morning, along with favorable press about his visit to the campus and his vision for the CSU.
Giving to the University
CSU Dominguez Hills Records Another Strong Fundraising Year

CSU Dominguez Hills had another strong fundraising year, bringing in $3.9 million through corporate, foundation, and individual giving in fiscal year 2012–2013. The number of donors to the university increased by 10 percent over the previous year, with the number of alumni donors increasing by more than 12 percent. FY 2012–13 also saw a growth of more than 50 percent in the number of cash gifts over in-kind gifts received.

Keck Foundation Funds Unique Chemistry Lab Redesign

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry received a $200,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation to support a unique online chemistry lab aimed at addressing barriers to the sciences for part-time, working students. Through the purchase of a cyber-enabled mass spectrometer, funded by the grant, the department is able to redesign the lab portion of certain courses, separating out skills acquisition lessons that require physical time in the lab from concept reinforcement and experimental analysis, which can be accomplished remotely using the spectrometer. Lab time tends to demand a lot of time on campus, something that is difficult for some students. The new lab went online this fall.

New STEM Advantage Nonprofit Makes CSUDH Students its First Beneficiaries

Twelve students majoring in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields at CSU Dominguez Hills are the beneficiaries of STEM Advantage, a newly formed nonprofit which is providing internship, mentorship and scholarship to ensure student success. Each of the computer science/technology majors selected by STEM Advantage were in paid internships this summer in the IT department of such prominent companies as DirecTV, Toyota, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Cognizant, and Hispanic Scholarship Fund, will receive close to $8,000 in scholarship for the 2013–2014 academic year, and be paired with professionals at other companies who are giving their free time to provide the students with guidance on education and career options.

National Corporations Support University Programs

A number of national corporations with a local presence continued their support of CSU Dominguez Hills in 2012–2013. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., BP Carson Refinery, and Southern California Edison each gave $25,000 to benefit the President’s Scholarship Reception, which raises money for the university’s premier scholarship, the Presidential Scholars. Schools Federal Credit Union and Shell Pipeline Company LP also gave $25,000 each to benefit the reception and other university programs. Alcoa Foundation donated $25,000 to expand the Alcoa STEM Scholarship for undergraduate students majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics-related (STEM) degree programs.

New Vice President for University Advancement Named

Following a nationwide search, University President Willie J. Hagan has appointed Carrie E. Stewart as the university’s new vice president for university advancement. Her first day will be Jan. 13, 2014. Stewart has more than 25 years of experience in university advancement. She has served as vice president of institutional advancement at Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles since 2011. At Otis she has successfully directed fundraising for a $30 million campaign, overhauled marketing efforts, and significantly increased alumni annual giving. Prior to Otis, Stewart spent more than 20 years in the CSU system, most recently as associate vice president for advancement, central development, and major events at CSU Fullerton.
Michele Bury:  
Drawing on Experience to Inspire Design Students

Graphic design constantly and creatively innovates, adapts, evolves, and progresses. So, too, does Michele Bury, past chair and professor of art and design at California State University, Dominguez Hills. And the beauty of it is her influence can be seen in the works created by the university’s art and design students.

Traditionally, the works of students are displayed during the Annual Student Art and Design Exhibitions held in the University Art Gallery. Drawing on her early career experience working internationally as a graphic designer—in Paris she designed for clients including the Chateau de Versailles Museum and for one of London’s top agencies, Roundel Design Group—the Berkeley native has guided students to create and deliver their work in more progressive ways.

Two years ago she began implementing non-traditional assignments such as guerrilla art projects, also known as street art, in which students anonymously and spontaneously installed temporary displays at various locations throughout campus.

Animation students also have an opportunity to share their work beyond the classroom and university’s art gallery.

Several students from the art and design department have been selected as finalists to show at the annual CSU Media Arts Festival (MAF), including one of Bury’s digital animation students, alumna Marié Ishikawa (Class of ’09, B.A., digital media arts), who produced an animated “Swatch” commercial in 2009.

Bury said her experience as a past juror for MAF provided her with insights into the current trends in digital media.

“That was very interesting because you really get a sense of what other schools are doing, and we don’t [typically share] static images, for print or fine arts, [that way],” she said.

Bury has evolved other classroom assignments into projects that students create for real world use, starting right here with the university. Through Independent Study in Art (ART494) she guides students as they create materials for “clients” on campus, including posters for several productions staged by the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Extending experiential learning for students to off-campus activities, Bury developed the curriculum for Design Practices III (ART447A) to include a project in which students consult with owners or representatives of local small businesses to redesign a brand identity.

This fall Bury adapted the project and had students designing a brand identity, in any format they chose, for an event benefiting a social cause of their choice. As part of the project they interacted with...
clients or users to develop a budget for the project and precise fundraising goals.

“The project goes toward constructive, tangible social change,” Bury commented.

Before she scaled the project to an entire class, she had worked with three students in independent study on projects to affect social change in fall 2012. Presenting their work during the 2013 Student Research Day resulted in a first place in the creative arts category for alumna Dalia Cornejo (Class of ’13, B.A., art and design, Spanish literature) for “Destroy the Box,” a stress relief project, and second place for Class of 2012 art and design alumnae Elvia Martinez and Ruth Morales-Mazariego for their “Visual Presentation About Homelessness.”

“That was the starting point. It was so successful and inspiring that I said, ‘Okay, I want to do this in the classroom,’” Bury recalled.

Investigating other ways to help propel CSU Dominguez Hills design students to “the next level” and to gauge how they compare to those at other institutions, Bury attended annual portfolio events sponsored by the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA). To enrich their experiential learning, Bury brought students along with her in prior years. But that wasn’t the best she could do. In an effort to reduce costs for students and to provide more focused attention on their work, in 2009 she initiated her own portfolio review event at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Bury implemented Portfolio Review Day as the culmination of the Senior Portfolio course (ART448A) she teaches each spring semester. Students from the class have the opportunity to meet with 10 professional reviewers in a speed-dating format to garner assessments of work designed and developed during their art and design studies at the university.

“The students find it very useful. [Instructors] also find it useful because we gain feedback about the art and design program,” Bury noted.

Insight gleaned is included in a formal assessment of the department. For instance, if judges suggest such elements as typography or the usage of illustration could be improved in students’ work, strengthening the teaching of those skills on corresponding assignments are considered for the curriculum.

“Portfolio Review Day is a lot of work, but it’s definitely worth it,” Bury said. “It’s a luxury for our students to have the attention on them. And it really gives us a good picture of what we’re doing as a program.”

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In the portfolio class, which Bury describes as extremely demanding, students are also able to hone presentation skills that they can use during Portfolio Review Day as well as at job interviews.

“Students have ownership of the project. So they can get rid of all the guidelines that were initially given to them and they really transform their portfolio into something that highlights their strengths,” Bury said. “The days of the black portfolio are kind of over.”

The course is proving effective, too. Cornejo aced an interview for a graphic design internship that took place during the summer of 2013 at Dermalogica, a skin care company in Torrance. Her CSUDH training undoubtedly was a factor in her success; the company recently hired Cornejo as a full-time graphic designer.

Since joining the CSU Dominguez Hills art department faculty in fall 2003, Bury has innovated curriculum with a broad stroke.

Early in her 2007-2012 appointment as chair of the art and design department, Bury considered ways not only to improve instruction and outcomes but to differentiate the program from those at other CSUs. A hybrid (part classroom, part online) program seemed to be a good solution and a good fit for the university.

“As of now, we are the only program within the CSU that will be offering this modality,” Bury said. “Graphic design is all on the computer, so it lends itself to online work really well. I find that using technology makes things easier and more interesting.”

She added that students use technology to relate to each other and through it is how they see the world. She went further to say that having students work on their assignments at home is more productive. Since the addition of using several online tools, their work has become stronger, and participation in critique activities has increased and became more meaningful.

“They’re very nice to each other in the classroom and they’re a lot more honest online,” she explained.

For two semesters Bury has offered hybrid classes as a pilot program. She has trained other design faculty and submitted a request for a curriculum change, which was approved by the College of Arts and Humanities and the university’s curriculum committee. It is currently undergoing further review by the CSU Office of the Chancellor.

Bury’s foray into technology was a breath of fresh air and the department was her blank tech canvas. When she was hired 10 years ago in the Department of Art—as it was then called—it had been 25 years since any new-hires had come on board.

“So I was the person for anything digital,” recalled Bury, who holds a Master of Fine Arts in animation from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Film, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design from Académie Charpentier in Paris, the city where she grew up.

Bury, who hadn’t originally planned on a career in teaching—until an offer from the chair of the design department at UCLA led her to teach graduate level digital animation (motion graphics) there—said she has found it very rewarding. Not only can she facilitate student success, but she’s also been able to put her stamp on the art and design department at CSU Dominguez Hills.

Within three weeks of joining the Toro faculty, Bury was asked to redesign the CSU Dominguez Hills art department curriculum. She remembers it as a daunting task. She introduced courses in web design, history of graphic design, typography, and revamped the portfolio class to include the aforementioned Portfolio Review Day and a mock job interview component.

Moreover she reorganized the department, distinguishing fine arts from graphic arts and renaming it the Department of Art and Design, which she says is “a better reflection of who we are.”

Mindful of the opportunity she’s been given to affect change at CSU Dominguez Hills, she credits another visionary.

“[Professor emeritus of art and design] Bernard Baker was very open and very supportive of all my ideas,” Bury said. “That was key.”
Ericka Verba, associate professor of history, received a $50,400 National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship grant to undertake the writing of a biography of 20th century Chilean artist Violeta Parra.

The proposal, “A Transnational Biography of Chilean Folklorist, Musician and Visual Artist, Violeta Parra (1917-1967)” actually earned Verba the distinction of being the only candidate to be awarded two NEH grants. However, she could only accept one and chose the NEH Fellowship grant over the NEH Award for Faculty.

Verba said Parra’s life offers an important case study of historically significant cultural issues.

“Studying Parra’s life in detail can tell us about larger questions of the 20th century,” Verba asserted. “I think Violeta Parra has very much been presented as a romantic figure and my argument is—and what I think convinced the NEH—is that she is actually a cosmopolitan figure. She presented herself as a sort of peasant woman, a campesina, but in fact she was very much a part of the cosmopolitan art world.”

Barbara Belmont, lecturer of chemistry and biochemistry, was awarded the 2013 Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Analytical Research Program (UARP) grant to promote high-quality, innovative undergraduate research in the field of analytical chemistry. Belmont will use the $10,000 UARP grant to support up to two undergraduate students per semester in directed research or a supervised project. Belmont has also been named an American Chemical Society (ACS) Fellow.

Theodore Byrne, assistant professor of public administration, and a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve Judge Advocate General’s Corps, was awarded the United States Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service as a judge advocate general at the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Command’s Central Medical Area Readiness Support Group.

Nancy Erbe, professor of negotiation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, was selected as a reviewer for the 2013-14 Peace and Conflict Resolution Peer Review Committee for the Fulbright Specialist Program. This was her fourth year as a reviewer.

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Jonathon Grasse, associate professor of music, was named a winner in the string trio composition competition of the American Composers Forum, Los Angeles Chapter, for his 2012 composition “Triptych.”

Rodney Oakes, adjunct faculty in humanities, composed a new work, “Machuat Variations No. 2,” for the Elysian Trombone Consort, a quartet of trombonists from the Louisville and Cincinnati orchestras.

Margaret Dee Parker, program coordinator of communication sciences and disorders, was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Hearing Aid Dispensers’ Board.

Laura Robles, professor emeritus of biology and acting associate vice president of research and funded projects, was selected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in recognition of her contributions to the biological sciences.

A. Marco Turk, chair and emeritus professor of negotiation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, was presented the L. Randolph Lowry Award by the Southern California Mediation Association for his work in founding the university’s NCRP program.

Biology Professor Awarded National Science Foundation Grant to Support Student Research in Australia

Terry McGlynn, associate professor of biology, was awarded a $243,922 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant through its International Research Experience for Students (IRES) program to send twelve CSU Dominguez Hills students—four per year through 2016—to Australia for seven months to conduct research on climate change in collaboration with scientists at the CSIRO Tropical Ecosystems Research Centre in the Northern Territory.

“International field experiences for students are transformative,” said McGlynn, who since 1996 has been taking students—many who now have successful science and teaching careers—on summer research trips to Costa Rica through another NSF-funded IRES program. “It’s clear that having this kind of experience matters.”

The four students who have been selected for the first research trip in 2014 are ecology and environmental biology majors Sara Hu, Jaime Perez and Erica Parra, and biology graduate student Joseph Fasheh.
New Books from Faculty

David Churchman, emeritus professor of behavioral sciences and faculty of Humanities Master of Arts External Degree (HUX) program. *Why We Fight: The Nature, Origins, and Management of Human Conflict* (University Press of America, 2013) draws on 24 academic disciplines to provide a critical analysis of some 100 theories that explain the origins, nature, and management of human conflict.

Eric Brach, lecturer in the English Department. *Billy the Hill and the Jump Hook: The Autobiography of a Forgotten Basketball Legend* (University of Nebraska Press, 2013), co-written with former NBA basketball player Billy McGill, is an autobiography of McGill’s life growing up in L.A., becoming the area’s only number one NBA draft pick, and life after basketball.

Nancy Erbe, professor of negotiation, conflict resolution and peacebuilding (NCRP), and Anthony Normore, associate professor of educational leadership. *Collective Efficacy* (Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2013) is an interdisciplinary perspective on international leadership and includes essays contributed by professionals across many disciplines and countries including, but not limited to Cameroon, Canada, Haiti, Kenya, Mexico, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, Thailand, and South Korea.

Ephriam Sando, professor emeritus of English. *Madonna of the Snows/ A Mass for Desdemona*, a book of two poems that address themes of romance, love, and all the emotions they generate. This is his third book.

Lynne Cook, professor of education. *Interactions: Collaboration Skills for School Professionals* (Pearson Education, 2012, 7th ed.), considered the most widely used text on the topic of collaboration, is written to help pre-service educators and practitioners effectively interact with other school professionals and parents. The new edition includes new chapters, an e-partnership feature and additional information on student collaboration, among other things.


A great number of first-generation, low-income students at California State University, Dominguez Hills face challenges in the pursuit of a college degree. In an effort to ensure they and all students at the university succeed, an overarching student success initiative set by University President Willie J. Hagan includes academic support programs and services at every stage of the student experience, from pre-matriculation to senior year, and continuing to post-graduation activities. In this issue of Dominguez Today, we meet students who have excelled beyond all expectations with the support of university programs dedicated to academic excellence.

Laura Ramirez
Turning Challenge to Achievement

Some people just love a good challenge. But how about one that started in kindergarten and continued on through high school and college? That’s exactly what Laura Ramirez took on at a young age. The junior majoring in mathematics has struggled with math her entire academic life; and the difficulty it presents to her is precisely what she loves about it.

“I struggled a lot in math, but I like that,” said Ramirez, who hopes to teach algebra in a high school located in an underserved community, such as the South Los Angeles neighborhood she grew up in. “It makes me feel like if I struggle, then I can help students when I teach, because I went through that, too.”

She’ll undoubtedly also be empathetic about the challenges that getting a good start in college can pose.

Although an honors student in

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to Success
high school, Ramirez scored below CSU Dominguez Hills’ admissions standards for the English Placement Test (EPT) test and received a score on the Entry-Level Mathematics (ELM) test that placed her in a conditional status for math remediation. She had to figure out a solution to secure her spot, and ensure her success, in college. She found it in the university’s Title V Encounter to Excellence (ETE), a no-cost program designed to equip freshmen who need remediation with the tools, information, resources and guidance to succeed in their first two years of college and that will also serve them throughout the rest of their education.

Prior to beginning her freshman year, Ramirez attended Summer Bridge Academy, a component of ETE that offers six-week summer courses in English and math, and completed one level of remedial English. It was a successful endeavor. In her freshman year, she went on to earn a B+ in the second level of remedial English. She fared even better in the hybrid remedial and college-level statistics course.

“I got an A, so I was really happy,” she recalled.

As she went through the ETE program in her freshmen and sophomore year Ramirez said she

First Year Experience: Early Engagement to Ensure Academic Success

A component of University President Willie J. Hagan’s overarching student success initiative, the First Year Experience (FYE) pilot program is centered around increasing persistence and retention among freshmen by engaging them both in and outside of the classroom.

In the classroom, general education (GE) course pairings, named GE Learning Community, aim to enhance student engagement, faculty-student interaction, and learning outcomes. Courses from contrasting subjects are paired or blended over two semesters to produce common themes that reinforce content. GE Learning Community dyads include such combinations as recreation and earth sciences: “Ethics;” history and biology: “Plagues and People;” music and sociology/history/geology: “World Music and Self;” and health and political science: “Obama Care and Aging.”

Kaye Bragg, acting assistant vice president for Academic Programs and Faculty Development who oversees FYE, explained that 25 students per class in the GE Learning Community—about half the size of a regular GE course—will have a shared experience with two faculty members interacting across two courses.

“We’re taking knowledge and reinforcing the use of it, across time,” she said.

Outside of the classroom, FYE aims to build a sense of community among freshmen that underscores their academic activity, helps them to identify their role as a student, and strengthens their affiliation to the university through such activities as the Leadership Series offered by Student Affairs.

FYE identifies five competencies for assessing academic success during a student’s first year in college:

- Effective communication
- Quantitative reasoning
- Information literacy
- Data analysis
- Critical thinking

“One of the key objectives of the First Year Experience is for the students to answer the question: What does it mean to be a university student at California State University, Dominguez Hills?” Bragg said.
felt she benefited greatly from the supplemental instructor (SI) tutoring, academic advisement and the various workshops offered – although she didn’t realize the benefit at the time.

“‘It was like, who cares about time management,’ she recalled. ‘Later I’d say, ‘Oh yeah, they were right, I should use my time wisely. I should study after my class.’”

ETE made such an impact on her that she transitioned from receiving the support services the program provides to offering the services to others. She is now an ETE peer mentor. Doing so added up for Ramirez, who said, “It shows that I have communication, leadership, and organizational skills.”

The program has not only helped Ramirez to feel confident about her goals, which include earning a teaching credential, masters, and possibly a Ph.D. in education one day, it has helped to improve her overall self-confidence.

“ETE helped me with my educational life and my social life,” the once shy student attested. “I could say a million things about the program. It’s amazing.”

Sometimes it takes quite a bit to help someone succeed. Other times just a little motivation will help.

In his role as president of the Male Success Alliance (MSA), Leonidas Sloan, a senior majoring in sociology and pre-medicine, is committed to doing whatever he can to progress the initiative’s goal to ensure that young men of color succeed in college.

Sloan takes to heart the MSA’s mission and its motto, “I am my brother’s keeper and together we will rise.”

But he wasn’t immediately an ardent ambassador. In his freshman year in 2009, he attended an MSA workshop, but was initially unimpressed—until a year later.

“I saw a picture on a Facebook page of MSA members. They were all in a suit, in their blazers. I thought, ‘Hey, wait, they really took this to the next level. I have to be involved,’” he recalled of the group in their signature MSA emblemed jackets. “It was so solid, seeing all males of color united. It

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seemed really prestigious.”

Once a member, Sloan quickly ascended the MSA ranks, beginning with a leadership position as academic chair—leading study sessions three days a week—then as vice president for a semester before the presidency in fall 2012.

Sloan wasn’t always slated for such success. A basketball and track and field athlete his freshman through junior years at Downey High School, academics took a backseat for Sloan. But, transferring to another school for his senior year made him ineligible for varsity sports—and it allowed him to shift his focus to his academic performance. Sloan, a native of Compton who grew up in Paramount, graduated from Paramount High School with a 3.6 GPA.

He initially entered CSU Dominguez Hills as an accounting major because he was good at math. But ultimately the self-described “people person” determined sociology would be a better fit for him. He considered a future career as a high school counselor.

Meanwhile a six-year stint tutoring inner city youth at Charles Drew University Medical Center’s Saturday Math and Science Academy was helping him discover his passion.

Evidence of Success

**Encounter to Excellence**

- 90% of ETE Summer Bridge Academy students successfully complete remedial English or math courses.
- First-year retention rates for ETE students average 90%.
- Long-term retention rates average 15–20% higher than students who did not require remediation.

**Male Success Alliance**

- 330 CSUDH students in MSA since 2009.
- MSA members serve as mentors to 200 local middle and high school students.
- 600 young men from CSUDH, local middle and high schools attended the 2013 MSA Summit.

**McNair Scholars**

- 97% graduate school acceptance rate for CSUDH McNair Scholars.
- Nearly half of CSUDH McNair alumni are in Ph.D. programs.

**MARC U-STAR/MBRS RISE**

- Since 1998, 50 CSUDH MARC U-STAR scholars have gone on to graduate programs in the medical field.
- Former MBRS students have returned to teach at CSUDH: Begona de Velasco, a lecturer in biology, and Kenneth Rodriguez, assistant professor of chemistry/biochemistry.
“I love kids and I love science. I realized it was just something that I wanted to do: give back to my community. I want to work in an underserved and underprivileged community as a doctor,” he said.

The aspiring pediatrician recently completed his medical pre-requisites ahead of schedule. He credits the guidance he received through MSA for his accelerated progress.

“I grew up in the inner city. A lot of my peers weren’t heading in the same direction as me. I had to learn the hard way to separate myself from that. It hurts to have to leave your fellowship of brothers behind, who you grew up with,” he remarked.

“So, having an organization like Male Success Alliance you create bonds with one another. You create a fellowship of success, brothers who hold you accountable for your responsibilities, to help guide you, to help push you, to help mentor you in the right direction.

“It’s motivating,” he said.

Erica Parra
Fieldwork Enriches Education

Whether contending with torrential rains, viscous mud or venomous snakes, all under the din of screeching monkeys and the clatter of exotically feathered fliers, everything in a densely vegetated rainforest can seem larger than life. But it was a wee creature that captured Erica Parra’s imagination.

“Once you really stop and observe them you realize they are not just ants but they are individuals who are working together to make their colonies function efficiently,” asserts the senior biology major.

As part of an international research project led by associate professor of biology Terry McGlynn, Parra was among a group of biology students from CSU Dominguez Hills who were in Costa Rica over the summer to carry out lab work at the Organization for Tropical Studies’ La Selva Biological Station in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí. Parra was working on a project that involved manipulating the environment to see how variations in sunlight affect (Continued on page 18)
colonies of litter-nesting ants that live among the leaf litter on the floor of the Costa Rican rainforest.

“Understanding how changes in their environment—as minimal as it might be to us—affects these social insects,” said Parra of the research. “Yes, a degree change to us is not much, but to these ants a single degree can be the cause of their death.”

While it may be true that the students are still mastering skills that are used in their field, McGlynn said Parra’s contributions to his lab, as well as research papers authored by faculty and graduate student researchers, have been significant. However, much of the work she has produced has been her own.

“These projects not only required independent judgment and biological insights, but also hard work in the field and the lab, and she generated some awesome data,” McGlynn commented of Parra, who is currently working on a manuscript that stems from her first research trip to Costa Rica in 2012, in which she studied the feeding ecology of the bullet ant. She plans to submit it to a scholarly journal.

Parra’s work has helped her demystify the lives of ants and that research contributes to understanding behavior and environmental impacts on a larger scale. But for the first-generation college student the...
Connecting to Success

overall experiences in the field go beyond getting a clearer picture of what's happening under leaves in the rainforest.

“Being involved in these research projects is giving me an idea of what it's going to be like in a graduate program and to understand the path to get into a Ph.D. program,” she said. “It's also good because, if I wouldn't have liked fieldwork, I would’ve known by now that biological research is not for me. But I'm ecstatic.”

Beginning in January 2014 and continuing through August, Parra will be getting more fieldwork experience under her belt. She'll be part of a 28-week climate change research project in Australia, funded by a grant McGlynn received from the National Science Foundation's International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) program.

Cesar Deleon

Opening the Door to Research

Cesar Deleon entered college with dreams of becoming a doctor.

Toward that end, he chose to major in biology and began taking the prerequisite classes. But as sometimes is the case with college students, a course in another subject changed his mind. For Deleon, it was chemistry.

“I've always been in love with mathematics and using logic and critical thinking to solve problems,” he said of why he changed majors. “[Chemistry is] all about using math and applying the theory and concepts to try to solve the problem and I love the challenge of that.”

Some of his professors noticed his aptitude and inclination toward the subject and suggested he consider pursuing it in a Ph.D. program.

“At that point, I didn’t know what a Ph.D. was. I didn’t even know there was a Ph.D. I just knew there was an M.D.,” he admitted.

He learned he could still pursue a career in medicine, but one that focused on making medicine, not the administering of it.

“The reason for choosing medicine was because I wanted to help people. In science, I saw not only the opportunity to help people, but to help people beyond my generation,” he remarked.

Deleon’s decision was further solidified after hearing a classroom presentation about the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (U-STAR) program. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), MARC U-STAR supports minority students in the biomedical and behavioral sciences and prepares them for Ph.D. programs through participation in high-caliber training.

Now the senior chemistry major has his sights squarely set on graduate school, where he plans to specialize in organic chemistry. He credits the two-year research scholarship he received from MARC U-STAR for providing him an

(Continued on page 20)
opportunity that would otherwise be out of his reach.

“The financial support allowed me to focus on what I wanted to do, which was do research and excel in school,” he said.

Deleon has certainly taken advantage of all the opportunities MARC U-STAR has offered him. This past summer he received a 10-week paid internship to participate in the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellows at the Scripps Research Institute in San Diego, and in 2012 he took part in a summer research program at The Ohio State University, where he learned to be a “cancer photographer,” using infrared light to identify cancer in the liver. In 2011 he attended a four-day ACCESS symposium at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Under the mentorship of assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry and alumnus Kenneth Rodriguez (Class of ’01, B.S., chemistry), Deleon garnered recognition at various events including a first place award at the 2011 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students; and a second place award at the 2012 CSU Dominguez Hills Student Research Day in the chemistry category for his poster presentation. He has also presented at the 2012 Biophysical Society Conference held in San Diego and to his peers in a biology senior seminar course.

Although receiving support for academic and scientific pursuits, Deleon knows he must be dedicated to the work in order to capitalize on the opportunities presented.

“The beauty of the MARC U-STAR program is that it actually puts you at the door of research,” he said. “It’s really up to you to go in and do what you have to do to be successful.”

Gabriel Jones
Grooming for Graduate School

It would be fair to say Gabriel Jones wants to help save the world. But he’s not doing it wearing a cape.

The senior majoring in anthropology with a minor in geography is working toward making positive changes in environmental justice and policy based on research. A lofty goal to be sure, but with the opportunities that being in the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program at CSU Dominguez Hills provides to him, he is well on his way to the education he will need to attain that goal.

For Jones, the support and encouragement he receives from the program, which aims to prepare undergraduate students who are traditionally underrepresented in college to pursue graduate studies, has helped him to think more and more like an academic.

“McNair made me forget that I’m an undergraduate. It’s changed my outlook on my academic ability, even down to the courses I take: Is this going to prepare me for what is expected of me in grad school? Is this what I need to know for the research I’m interested in?” he
said, adding that the knowledge he gains in the classroom coupled with being a McNair scholar has aided his growth as a student. “Through the anthropology department and McNair, I have been introduced to real research and what that entails.”

In his junior year, Jones had the opportunity to assist in a California Sea Grant-funded research project under assistant professor of anthropology Ana Pitchon, conducting interviews and gathering data on marketing opportunities and regulatory impediments within the local San Pedro Pacific sardine fishery. He received the California Sea Grant’s John D. Issacs Marine Undergraduate Research Assistant Program stipend as a result.

His participation in that project also led to experiences presenting research findings at three different conferences, the 20th Annual McNair Scholars Symposium held at the University of California, Berkeley in 2012, the 2013 CSU Dominguez Hills Student Research Day, and the 14th University of Maryland National Conference for McNair Scholars and Undergraduate Research in spring 2013.

(Continued on page 22)
Having honed his skills assisting his professors, the honors student is now starting to focus in on his own research interests and agenda.

“I’m interested in exploring people’s cultural conceptions of the environment,” he said, adding that he is particularly interested in understanding how these perceptions shape decision-making behaviors in grassroots environmental justice organizations and community members as a whole, as well as mainstream environmental organizations.

An aspect of McNair that Jones finds has aided him in his research is the feedback he receives from his fellow McNair Scholars. Jones said the varied research interests and cultural backgrounds among the dozen McNair scholars in his cohort often result in alternative perspectives, leading to presentation improvements.

Beyond research, the shared experiences—in life, school, and research—among Jones and his fellow McNair scholars, have strengthened their bond, as well as their resolve to secure a spot in graduate school.

Now in the fall of his senior year and having been selected as one of two CSU Dominguez Hills students awarded a 2013-2014 Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarship from the CSU Office of the Chancellor, graduate school is definitely in the forefront of his mind. But while the Casanova scholarship has provided an extra layer of support and opportunities to prepare him for the next step in his educational journey, he gives all the credit to McNair for making it possible.

“McNair made me realize that I have the potential to succeed and get into these programs and to do well,” he said.

Joyce Rockhold

Internship Connects Course and Career

Joyce Rockhold is getting a taste of where her education can take her.

Since June 2013, the California State University, Dominguez Hills junior majoring in computer technology with an emphasis in homeland security has been interning at Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The internship was made possible through STEM Advantage, a newly formed nonprofit that has partnered exclusively with CSU Dominguez Hills during its first year to provide students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines with advantages to ensure they succeed in their studies, have opportunities to gain experience, and connect with seasoned professionals in their field. Through the three-pronged scholarship-internship-mentorship program, 12 students—six women and six men—are each receiving nearly $8,000 toward tuition, fees and books for the year, have been placed in a paid internship in the Information Technology (IT) department of well-known companies, and are being mentored by an IT professional.
When she learned of her selection to STEM Advantage it came as a “total shock” to Rockhold.

“Then I became so thankful and appreciative,” she added. “I hope to be a part of the next wave; I hope to be one to give back, to pay it forward.”

The scholarship is a welcome financial boost, and the mentorship is offering invaluable insight and support as she begins to transition from student to professional. But through the internship, Rockhold is gaining that all-important on-the-job experience, which is allowing her to connect the dots between what she has studied and how it’s applied in a business setting. Conversely, in some instances, the light of knowledge shines brighter while in the classroom thanks to what she’s been able to do in her internship at Sony.

Given her interest in homeland security, Rockhold jumped at the chance when asked if she wanted to spend some of her time with Sony’s computer forensics team. Now in her first forensics class this semester, she feels like she has an edge.

“Being at Sony and going into their forensics department, I got to learn all those things by seeing them. Now I’m doing theory and I’m getting so much more out of it than if I had done the opposite. You get to see it before you learn it.”

She added that the experience overall is opening her eyes to the possibilities in IT.

“It’s guiding me in the right direction to be able to know areas that I need to concentrate in and improve on and also just to be familiar with the areas that I do have a strong skill set in,” she said of being at Sony. “Over time and especially since this internship I’ve decided that I’m not necessarily going to exclude the other aspects of IT. Interestingly, I do come from a pretty strong customer service background. This internship I’m doing now is really strong customer service, 100 percent. I’m really happy that I’ve been able to learn so much more about corporate IT.”

Her hard work and attention to the needs of her customers within Sony has gotten her noticed. Just two months into her internship, she was given the Sony Picture’s Walk the Talk award for “exceptional dedication to her work.”

That’s a good indication of a bright future ahead of her.
CoMMunity engageMent

Assembly, has been a long-time sup-
porter of the university and strong
advocate for education while in office.
“I’m honored to be an alumna
of this distinguished university and
you should know that as long as I am
in Washington D.C. you have a friend
here,” Bass said in a video address.

Kaiser has been a key partner
in the School of Nursing and the
Clinical Science Program, providing
internships to students and allowing
their employees to serve as volunteer
clinical instructors and consultants.
Bob Blair, chief administrative offi-
cer for the Kaiser Permanente South
Bay Medical Center, accepted the
award on behalf of Kaiser.
“Cal State Dominguez Hills plays
an important role in preparing future
health care leaders in the South Bay
and is an incredible asset in this com-
community,” Blair said.

The awards are presented at
the annual President’s Scholarship
Reception in the spring semester. A

Strengthening Our Connections
CSU Dominguez Hills is strongly committed to the communities, both ethnic and geographic, it
serves. Throughout the year the campus hosts a number of events to bridge the community to the
campus as a source for culture, education and information.

Thanking Our Advocates and Partners
Each year, the university recognizes
one individual and one organiza-
tion—out of the many that support
the institution—with its Katherine
B. Loker Friend of Education Award
and Corporate Partner of Education
Award.

For 2013, the respective recipi-
ents were Congresswoman Karen
Bass (Class of ’90, B.S., health sci-
ence) and Kaiser Permanente.

Bass, who prior to her election
to the U.S. House of Representa-
tives served in the California Legislature
and was the first African American
woman California Speaker of the
Assembly, has been a long-time sup-
porter of the university and strong
advocate for education while in office.
“I’m honored to be an alumna
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The awards are presented at
the annual President’s Scholarship
Reception in the spring semester. A
fund raising event for the Presidential Scholars Program, the university’s signature academic scholarship, the President’s Scholarship Reception raised a record $225,000 from corporate and community sponsorships to support the tuition, books, and other opportunities for 16 of the university’s brightest students.

**CSU Dominguez Hills Recognized Nationally for Community Service**

At CSU Dominguez Hills community engagement is considered a valuable component of students’ educational experience, and as such, the campus works to provide numerous opportunities to connect students with service projects. Those efforts, which include students assisting at free medical clinics, donating supplies to disaster-torn regions, feeding the homeless or volunteering at preschools to encourage early reading, have received recognition at the national level, and for the past four years the university has been included on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, a federal initiative that recognizes the efforts of institutes of higher learning to engage students in meaningful, measurable service in the communities their university serves.

In 2013, CSU Dominguez Hills was named as an Honor Roll Presidential Award finalist, among 13 others, plus the five ultimate winners. It is the highest recognition the Honor Roll bestows on a college or university for its commitment to volunteering, service learning, and civic engagement.

“This award validates the value CSU Dominguez Hills places on community engagement,” said Cheryl McKnight, director of the university’s Center for Service Learning, Internships and Civic Engagement. “Now, we are the touchstone by which other universities will measure their community engagement efforts.”
Dear Friends,

It is with pleasure that we present our Annual Donor Honor Roll for California State University, Dominguez Hills. In this Honor Roll, we acknowledge the support given between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013.

Through the generosity of our donors, the university had a very strong fundraising year, bringing in $3.9 million during fiscal year 2012-2013. Combined with FY 2011-12, which was the second highest year of fundraising for the university, more than $8 million has been raised for CSU Dominguez Hills in support of its students and academic programs over the past two years. The number of donors to the university increased by 10 percent over the previous year, with the number of those who are alumni increasing by more than 12 percent. We also saw a growth of more than 50 percent in the number of cash gifts over in-kind gifts received.

With state support for our public universities decreasing dramatically in recent years, gifts from alumni, community supporters, faculty, staff, students, parents, foundations and corporations make a critical difference. Your support enhances the educational experience at CSU Dominguez Hills, and each contribution is vital to the success of students and faculty, as well as the development of programs and research.

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to CSU Dominguez Hills. Together, we are changing the lives of our students and investing in the university’s future.

Sincerely,

Jeff Poltorak
Interim Vice President for University Advancement

NOTE: Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the information published in this Honor Roll. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent omission or error, and contact the Office of Development at (310) 243-2182 so we can correct our records.
“As a member of the South Bay business community, Shell is excited to support CSU Dominguez Hills and their commitment to higher education and a brighter future for their students and the community.”

—Alan Caldwell, Shell Communications Manager, Southern California
2012–2013

Donor Honor Roll (Continued from page 27)
“For me, the Presidential Scholar Award has lifted an enormous financial burden off my family [and] means so much, because it is an affirmation that I did something right academically while I was in high school.”

—Patrick Fuentes, senior, Clinical Science
“The Jamina O. Barnes Scholarship provides me with an opportunity to continue on a path towards progression; and for that I am immensely thankful.”

—Constance Reese, graduate student, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution, and Peacebuilding
Leave a LEGACY for the leaders of TOMORROW.

Emeritus Professor of Sociology Bill Blischke and his wife, Sharon, have chosen to give to the university by including the Faculty Legacy Fund in their estate plans.

Leave a legacy of support that will help future generations of students receive an exceptional educational experience.

Your generosity through Planned Giving ensures a strong future for CSU Dominguez Hills.

Find out how you can create or contribute to an endowment like Bill and Sharon have done, create a scholarship named in honor of someone special, or make another type of planned gift.

Contact the CSUDH Office of Development at (310) 243-2182.
John Sagale: CSU Dominguez Hills Internship Leads Directly to Law School

By Doug Carnahan
Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner (Ret.)

Being at court has been a long-time goal for alumnus John Sagale (Class of ’10, B.A., political science). “As an adolescent I grew up wanting to do one of three things: play professional volleyball, become a recording artist, or be a lawyer,” the 33-year-old Long Beach native said.

His name is not on concert venue marquees, nor has he graced the pro volleyball courts, to his chagrin, but he will find his way to a court soon—a courtroom to be exact. Sagale realized one of his goals this year when he graduated from Indiana’s Valparaiso University Law School and is waiting to sit for the 2014 California Bar Examination.

“My feelings are mixed,” he said. “However, I’m absolutely looking forward to sitting for the bar exam because it means that law school has officially come to an end.”

Sagale, who transferred to CSU Dominguez Hills in 2008, credits his undergraduate education and the CSU Dominguez Hills Court Observer Internship Program, which afforded him the chance to work at the Los Angeles County Superior Court in Torrance, for molding his thinking about law in general and preparing him for law school.

The CSU Dominguez Hills Court Observer Internship Program has existed for several decades, established under the auspices of Court of Appeal Justice Norman Epstein. Through the program, Justice Epstein has seen to it that CSU Dominguez Hills undergrads have the opportunity to experience, firsthand, how courts, judges, and lawyers operate. Court interns work with judges, commissioners, and other court staff in observing cases, discussing trial strategy, and doing basic legal research to assist the bench officers.

“Partaking in the internship program with the Superior Court was one of the best decisions I made while at CSUDH,” Sagale said. “It helped reaffirm the type of work I plan to practice after law school—that is, litigation.”

The internship not only opened his eyes to the real world of law, but also allowed him to develop mentor-mentee relations with court personnel.

“Prior to my involvement in the internship program, I did not personally know anyone in the legal field,” Sagale said. “Having Commissioner Doug Carnahan as a mentor was imperative to my success before and after entering law school.”

While a law student, Sagale continued to take advantage of opportunities to expand his experiences, including studying international human rights in a summer study abroad in Chile and Argentina, and working one summer for the California Attorney General’s Office.

As Sagale transitions into the next phase of his life, he is investigating his options. Eventually, he would like to be a criminal lawyer.

Reflecting on where he would like to be 20 years from now, Sagale said, “Whatever it is I’m doing, I hope to have made a meaningful difference or contribution to society and that I did it with honor.”
Class Notes

1970s

Steve Williams (B.A., ’71) was installed as the new senior pastor of Grace Community Church of Seal Beach. He had been an associate pastor at Grace Community since 1996, and a member of the church, with his wife Trish, since 1989.

1980s

Cheryl Browne, M.D. (B.S., ’82), a physician with Kaiser Permanente South Bay Medical Center, received the 2012 Guardian of Health Award from the California Center for Public Health Advocacy for her support of community health.

Frank Putz, (B.A., ’86, M.B.A., ’94) has been named vice president of education for the Institute for Supply Management Los Angeles (ISM-LA), a not-for-profit association of the purchasing and supply management profession. Putz is an instructor for the CSUDH Online Purchasing Certificate Program through the College of Extended and International Education.

Barbara Haney (M.S., ’89) was recognized by the Daily Breeze newspaper with its 2012 People of Distinction award in the Business/Innovation category for her 22 years of work at Social Vocational Services Inc., a statewide nonprofit serving persons with developmental disabilities in community settings. She currently is director of community development.

1990s

Liz Ramirez (M.A., ’93) was named principal of Richmond Street Elementary in El Segundo Unified School District, effective July 1, 2013. Ramirez had been the staff development coordinator for the Lawndale Elementary School District for more than a decade.

Frances Lopez-Zarate (B.A., ’93, M.A., ’96) was promoted to assistant principal at Antelope Hills Elementary School in Murrieta Valley Unified School District. Lopez-Zarate has been an educator for 20 years.

Kati Krumpe (M.A., ’94) was named assistant superintendent of educational services at Culver City Unified School District. Dr. Krumpe was previously a district administrator at Torrance Unified School District, where she was honored as District Office Employee of the Year in 2008, 2010 and 2011, and Administrator of the Year in 2009.

Karen Neitzel (M.A., ’95) was appointed to Iolani School in Hono-
lulu, Hawaii, as the new dean of studies, effective July 1, 2013. Neitzel had served as principal at Hood River Valley High School in Hood River, Oregon. She helped establish a Hood River Valley sister school in Xi’an China and was selected to represent Oregon in the 2012-2013 U.S. China Administrator Shadow Project.

**Rodney Allen Rippy (B.S., ’95)**, who at just 3 years old in 1972 became the pint-sized TV pitchman for the Jack In The Box fast-food chain, was a candidate for the Mayor of Compton in the 2013 election. He is the owner and founder of Ripped Marketing Group.

**Sonya Barber-Earley (M.A., ’96)** has been appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Physician Assistant Board. Earley has been a certified insulin pump trainer and consultant at Animas Corporation since 2008 and a physician assistant and certified diabetes educator at the Southern California Kaiser Permanente Medical Group since 2007. She has also been an instructor of clinical medicine at the University of California Keck School of Medicine since 2004.

**Linda Broyles (M.S., ’96)** was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Commission on Emergency Medical Services. Broyles has been continuous quality improvement coordinator at the Regional Cooperative Care Program since 2006 and clinical coordinator at American Medical Response since 2007. Broyles has been a registered nurse since 1977 and a certified emergency nurse since 1990. She is a member of the California Emergency Nurses Association.

**Gerald L. VerDuft (M.S., ’97)** was recognized by the American Society for Quality (ASQ) Board of Directors for sustained leadership within ASQ at multiple levels, including consistent quality improvement principles within aerospace in government service, the private sector, and in academia, and for innovative leadership within ASQ in both technical committees and through section leadership. ASQ is a professional society for quality assurance professionals.

**Matthew Murray (CRDT, ’98)** has been selected as the new principal of Cornelius Elementary School of the Forest Grove School District in Oregon. Murray previously worked as the curriculum director for Blaine County School District in Idaho and most recently as superintendent for Glens Ferry Joint School District in Idaho.

**2000s**

**David Almond (M.A., ’01)** has written and published “A Sailor’s Story in Black & White: Battle for the Hawk,” a historical recount of racial riots aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk during the Vietnam War.

**Anna Rubin (M.S., ’02)** has been appointed as the new administrative director of Long Beach Lesbian & Gay Pride, Inc. She has a 20-year background in nonprofit education, and health and human services. She previously was director of opera-
tions at New Millennium Secondary School, was director of programs at the Gay and Lesbian Center of Long Beach, and worked in the Downtown Women’s Center in Los Angeles.

**Ronald Ramirez (B.S., '03)** has been promoted to detective with the Pomona Police Department. He has been in law enforcement for 22 years.

**Marie-France Sam (B.A., '04)** was named Teacher of the Month for January 2013 by Palos Verdes Peninsula High School. She began her career as a high school French teacher eight years ago after having worked for many successful years in corporate finance.

**David Corso (M.B.A., '06)** has been appointed chief operating officer of Beaver Dam Community Hospital in Wisconsin. He previously worked for nonprofit health care delivery system ThedaCare’s Orthopedics Plus Rehabilitation, where he was responsible for setting and operationalizing their strategic direction.

**Myeshia Price (B.A., '06)** earned her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May 2013, and took a position as assistant professor of SUNY at Old Westbury. Additionally, she was inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society’s chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the society’s national chapter.

**Joseph Cascio (B.A., '07, M.A., '08)** has been named the new athletic director for Long Beach City College, effective July 15, 2013. Cascio brings over 20 years of coaching experience to LBCC, having most recently served as project manager in Santa Monica College’s athletic department, overseeing and directing a 17-team athletic program.

**Brian Johsz (M.P.A., '07)** was appointed to the Chino Valley Fire District Board of Directors. Johsz works as the district director for San Bernardino County Supervisor Gary Ovitt.

**Lisa Deesing (M.P.A., '10)** has been appointed the City of Riverside’s chief innovation officer. Deesing has worked in information technology for 24 years, most recently as associate vice chancellor of information services for the Riverside Community College District.

**Pedro Castro (B.S., '12)** was appointed as technical support coordinator at California State University, Los Angeles.

**Vanessa Davis (CRDT, '12)** was appointed president of Harding University Partnership School by the Santa Barbara Unified School District Board of Education. Prior to joining the Santa Barbara Unified School District, Davis worked as a teacher and then assistant principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**In Memoriam**

Lea Ramirez (B.A., '76)
Louise “Wesie” Kripal (B.A., '78)
Marilyn Brady (B.A., '97, M.A., '01)
William C. Horst (B.A., '00)
Stefanie Ramirez (B.A., '11)
Kim Aggabao: New Toros Softball Coach

When the Toros softball season gets underway in February, there will be a new face in the dugout. In September, Director of Athletics Patrick Guillen announced the hiring of Kim Aggabao as head coach of the Toros softball program. She becomes the 11th person in team history to take that position.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Toro family,” Aggabao said. “I’m looking forward to building on the success of the program and accomplishing great things on the field, in the classroom, and in the community.”

Aggabao takes the reins after two years as head coach of Division I South Dakota State, where she compiled an overall record of 29-57-1.

“I’m excited to have Kim join our team here at CSUDH,” Guillen said. “Her combination of coaching experience as well as her playing experience in the CCAA made her stand out from the other candidates.”

Prior to South Dakota State, Aggabao spent seven seasons as an assistant coach at the Division I University of San Diego, helping the Toreros increase their win total, and boast their third-straight winning campaign in league play.

Aggabao attended the University of California, San Diego, graduating in 2004 with a degree in biology and a minor in sociology. A four-year starter middle infielder and team captain in her junior and senior years, she earned first-team All-California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) honors three times and was named CCAA Most Valuable Player her senior year.
Gavin Centeno, ASI President

“The more you’re involved, not only while you’re a student but throughout your life, the greater an impact you can make on your university and your community. Being in student leadership roles, I’ve learned how gratifying it is to give back.”

As president of Associated Students, Inc., Gavin Centeno is leading the way with a focus on ensuring that student services and programs become more efficient and effective. He serves current and future students by advocating to university administration with a clear message about what needs to be renewed, revised, or changed.

Your gift to CSU Dominguez Hills has a direct and meaningful impact on our students, and is an investment in our community’s future.