



CSU MONTEREY BAY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

YOUR OFFICIAL CONNECTION TO THE CSUMB RAFT

SUMMER 2001

Otters March at Fifth Commencement Ceremony

It was a cool day on the Monterey Peninsula, yet warm wishes filled Freeman stadium as CSUMB graduated its largest class ever on Saturday, May 25. An estimated 544 students were eligible to graduate this year, and 420 of those students walked across the stage in front of more than 5,000 family members and friends. Over 75 faculty and staff members also took part in this fifth annual CSUMB commencement ceremony.

CSUMB alumnus Troy Challenger (class of '97), a current CSUMB employee and board member of the Alumni Association, was awarded this year's Presidential Medal for his integral work within the CSUMB community as a Faculty Technology



Christine Svendson (Integrated Studies) waves for the photographer.

Consultant. Challenger spoke of dedication and even got laughs during his takeoff on Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath* saying, "When there's a disk stuck in a drive, I'll be there. When you need a shoulder to cry on, I'll be there. When the trash needs to be taken out, I'll be there."

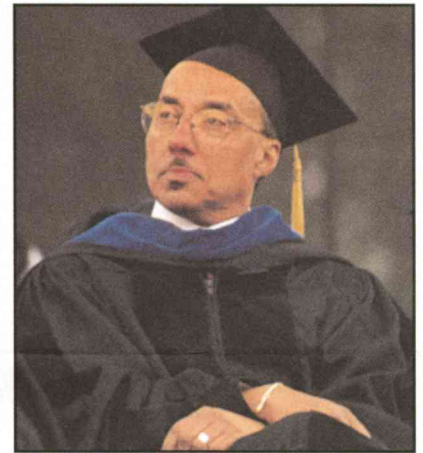
Twenty pioneering students were recognized at this year's ceremony and a large number of first generation students were honored by shouts of joy emanating from the rambunctious audience.

Jay T. Harris, former publisher of the *San Jose Mercury News*, delivered the keynote address. He encouraged graduates to become either "big dogs" or the "fleas on the big dogs," evoking laughter and even some barks from the audience.

"You don't have to be a big dog to make a difference," argued Harris. "Enough fleas working strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable."

Harris quoted Marian Wright Edelman when urging the graduates to, "be confident that you can make a difference."

Harris quoted many philosophers, writers, and activists in his speech, but left strong words of his own for graduates to take with them. "Let your life and career be about more than yourself, more than getting by or getting ahead. Seek to build a better life not only for yourself, but also for your family and for your community."



This year's keynote speaker Jay T. Harris.

As is tradition, the President's Award for Exemplary Achievement recipient addressed the commencement audience. Nile Dupstadt II, a Management and International Entrepreneurship graduate, was this year's honoree. He focused on the same theme as Harris as his commencement speech encouraged members of the CSUMB Class of 2001 to "be the change you want to see."



Graduates Jeffrey Singson(TAT) and Alison Geitner(TAT) take a moment with instructor Steven Levinson.

MARK THE DATE

Kelp Kraze

Saturday, November 10, 2001

First Home Games

CSUMB Women's Soccer v. CSU Stanislaus
8/26, 12:00 P.M.

CSUMB Women's Volleyball v. CSU Hayward
9/4, 7:30 P.M.

CSUMB Men's Soccer vs. Hope University
9/5, 3:00 P.M.

CSUMB Men's Basketball vs. Point
Loma Nazarene, 10/12, 7:30 P.M.

CSUMB Women's Basketball vs. Holy
Names College, 10/27, 5:30 P.M.


For complete schedules, please contact Athletics, Sports Recreation & Health by phone (831-582-3015) or email (asrh@csumb.edu).

OTTER TIDBITS

- The closing of the BBC (Black Box Cabaret) in the fall of 1999 lead to an uproar from the students of CSUMB. After two years of discussion and study, there is good news to announce. The BBC began reconstruction on June 18, 2001, and is expected to reopen in early October! Stay tuned for the date!

- Remember that abandoned building on the corner of Imjin and Abrams? The one that everyone wished was a store or a gas station? As of July 15 that building will be The Ord Market. The Market will provide a drivethrough coffee window, snacks, beverages, and real food—all at competitive prices.

- Alumni—Pledge to Support CSUMB! Last April alums were called and asked to help support CSUMB with a financial pledge. Our new alums pledged over \$1400! The results were beyond expectations and CSUMB thanks all the alums who helped with our first campaign.

- As part of its comprehensive identity program, CSUMB began a yearlong transition to a single CSUMB.EDU Web identity in May. At the start of the transition period, every FirstClass account holder received a new CSUMB.EDU email address, and CSUMB.EDU mirrors were created for all monterey.edu URL's. During the transition year, both CSUMB.EDU and monterey.edu email and Web addresses will work. As of May 5, 2002, however, only CSUMB.EDU addresses will continue to function. A new logomark has also been adopted to help establish the CSUMB.EDU Web identity. 

Award Winners Represent the Best of CSUMB

So many students. So many who deserve recognition! Yet every year cross-campus committees must select a mere handful of outstanding students in the graduating class to receive CSUMB's top awards. As in years past, the 2001 award winners represent the very best of CSUMB.

The President's Award for Exemplary

Achievement, given to a student who excels academically and in efforts to better the community, was awarded to Nile Duppstadt II. Nile involved himself broadly in the CSUMB community while maintaining a cumulative gradepoint average of 3.74 as a Management and International Entrepreneurship major. He served as an ESL tutor, a co-captain of the inaugural soccer team, a Student Voice Senator, and a member of the first Strategic Planning Committee. When asked about his reactions to winning this award Nile said, "I am truly honored. Being recognized in such a way means I made a difference in this community. It has strengthened my belief that if you try hard, keep your focus, and continually help others when possible, those efforts will not go unnoticed."

In his commencement address, Nile expressed his gratitude for the education he has received at CSUMB and also thanked his parents for teaching him that "You can do anything if you put your mind to it." Nile reminded the audience that it takes only one person to create change and encouraged graduates to "be the change you want to see." Nile finished by telling his peers, "Our chance is now. We will shape the future."

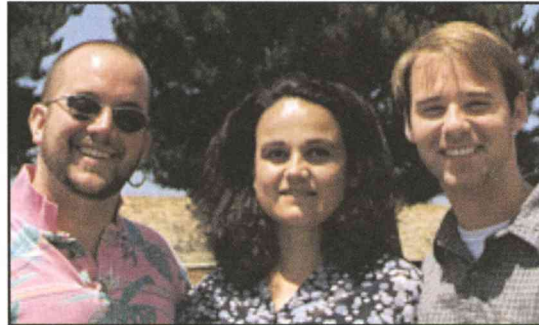
The Provost's Award for Exemplary Academic achievement, a new award this year, went to Sabrina Graziano, a Man-

agement and International Entrepreneurship major. This award goes to a student who excelled in all aspects of academics and overcame multiple challenges or barriers while pursuing a degree. Sabrina, who is from Italy, excelled in her academic career despite her multiple roles as a mother and an immigrant speaking English as her second language.

For the first time ever, two awards went to one recipient this year. The Outstanding Senior Award for Tri-County Achievement and the Alumni Association Vision Award were presented to Merlyn Calderon. Merlyn's work in the Tri-County community with nonprofit organizations not only stood out to the Tri-County Achievement committee, but also to the Alumni Association Vision Award committee. In addition to her work with local nonprofit organizations, Merlyn worked with CSUMB's Student Voice and Educational Talent Search.

The Outstanding Senior Award for Social Justice went to Ethan Brown. Ethan brought a commitment to social justice both in theory and in practice to the CSUMB and local communities. Ethan has provided a unique perspective on the issue of multiculturalism, challenging others to embrace the CSUMB Vision. His persistence in demonstrating how multiculturalism at CSUMB needs to include recognition of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and those-questioning-their-sexuality experience was well received on campus.

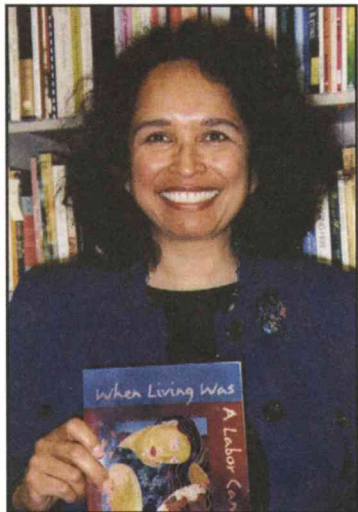
This year's Scholar-Athlete Award went to Brian I. Rutherford, a member of the inaugural CSUMB Men's Soccer team who carried a 3.57 overall GPA while majoring in Liberal Studies.



Senior Award Winners (L-R) Ethan Brown, Sabrina Graziano and Nile Duppstadt II.

Professor Wins Book Award

Everyone knew she was talented and in fact "an exemplary faculty member who is loved by students, committed to the CSUMB Vision, and is intellectually creative." according to Henry Villanueva, CSUMB Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Learning Support. CSUMB Human Communication assistant professor Diana Garcia received a phone call most veteran writers can only dream of receiving, a call from her publisher at University of Arizona Press, with the news that she had won the prestigious American Book Award for her first book of poems, *When Living Was A Labor Camp*.



American Book Award Winner, Diana Garcia with her book, *When Living Was a Labor Camp*

The American Book Award was established in 1978 by the Before Columbus Foundation to recognize outstanding literary achievement by contemporary American authors, without restriction to race, sex, ethnic background, or genre. The awards acknowledge the excellence and multicultural diversity of American writing. Diana Garcia's book offers a tribute to the people who live in the labor camps and who toil in the fields. Her poems tell the stories of her life as a child of campesinos, migrant farm workers.

"My first thought when my publisher called was a deep sense of gratitude—that the plight of farm workers had been recognized. I keep getting this sense that the book won the award, not me, and that the Before Columbus Foundation Committee heard all the voices in the book."

Others who have won this award include Toni Morrison (1988), Angela Y. Davis (1998), Sandra Cisneros (1985), Jimmy Santiago Baca (1988), bell hooks (1991), and Ronald Takaki (1994).

Diana is a native of California's San Joaquin Valley and was born in a labor camp called Camp CPC—California Packing Corporation. At different times a single mother on welfare, an electronics retail store owner, a personnel manager, and a sentencing consultant to criminal defense attorneys, she is now the coordinator of the Reading, Writing, and Critical Thinking program for CSUMB's Institute for Human Communication. Her poetry and fiction has also appeared in several anthologies including *Pieces of the Heart: New Chicano Fiction*; *El Coro: A Chorus of Latino and Latina Poetry*; and *Touching the Fire: 15 Poets of Today's Latino Renaissance*.

An excerpt from "Tisica" a poem in *When Living Was a Labor Camp*:

You thought your cough reflected
dank air—mist rising from the creek;
bad air—the outhouse midday.
Consumed by cough and sweat, you wait
as veiled nuns collect your ochred sheets
each daybreak. You approve.
Removed from friends and family
allowed no contact, you bask invisible.

Help Build the Alumni Association!

The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for members of the Board of Directors. The role of the Board of Directors is to set the policy of the Alumni Association, serve as a governing board for the association, and work collaboratively with University Advancement and the Director of Alumni Relations. Nomination forms will be mailed out in July. Please take a few minutes and help us build the Alumni Association by nominating CSUMB alumni to the board. For more information call 831-582-GRAD (4723)

Otter Fodder

A survey was distributed to alumni asking about their current employment or school status, life changes, volunteer activities, and awards or recognitions received. Alumni were also asked if they had any other information to share with their CSUMB friends. Thanks to everyone who replied. There wasn't enough room to include all responses in this newsletter...so stay tuned until you receive more Otter Fodder in the future! To send information about what you've been up to since graduation, please contact lin_blaskovich@csumb.edu

Class of '96

April McMillan (Teaching Credential) currently teaches kindergarten at Marina Vista Elementary in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District.

Class of '97

Stacia Lenger (Teaching Credential) currently teaches kindergarten in Seaside. She has also finished her Clear Credential and volunteers with education.

Veronica Hernandez (Liberal Studies and Teaching Credential) currently teaches kindergarten and volunteers much of her time to her class's school activities and fieldtrips.

Kirat Shah (Management and International Entrepreneurship), currently a top sales executive for Comteq USA, is engaged to be married.

Andrea Lynn Woody (Human Communication), currently a researcher for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, will begin graduate school in fall 2001. She also worked for two years on the New Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum.

Cristina Sierra-Mundo (Liberal Studies), currently a Preschool Coordinator Assistant at Tiny Tot University in Seaside, gave birth to Isabel Fey Mundo on April 28, 1999.

Class of '98

Laura Roach (Integrated Studies) now serves as Co-Director of Development at Planned Parenthood.

Christine Nieto (Liberal Studies), who went on to receive her Masters in Education in fall 2000 from Chapman University and now lives in San Diego, currently works as an Evaluation Consultant for CTB/McGraw-Hill.

Muriel Stettler (Liberal Studies) attends graduate school at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

April Santiago (Liberal Studies) teaches kindergarten at Creekside Elementary School in Salinas. She gave birth to Conner Tristan Santiago on January 18, 2000.

Susan Nisonger (Human Communication) teaches at Gilroy High School while pursuing her teaching credential through San José State University. She gave birth to Quinton Welch Nisonger on December 30, 2000. His father is Bobby Welch who also graduated from CSUMB in 1999.

Adrian Andrade (Human Communication and Master of Arts in Education) currently teaches Proseminar 100 and CST 101 at CSUMB. He also teaches at Gavilan College. Adrian has a new dog, an Australian Shepherd he named Joaquin. His volunteer work includes Friends of the Library, and doing outreach and recruitment work for CSUMB's College Assistance Migrant Program.

Class of '99

Kathryn Angarano (Liberal Studies) is currently a Team Leader for the Americorps National Civilian Community Corps, Class VII at Perry Point, Maryland. She volunteers with the NCCC



Graduate Behnaz Hajazejian (HCOM) shares a smile after receiving her diploma.

domestic peace corps program. She received the Team Motivator Award as an NCCC member last year.

Kristian Crump (Human Communication) is the Director of the Monterey County Needle Exchange Project. He travelled through Europe from January through February. "Hey, I'm still alive," he says to all his old friends.

Rebecca Lovelace (Collaborative Human

Services), coordinator of the Independent Living Program at Community Solutions in Santa Clara County, is engaged to be married.

Charlotte Hadley (Earth Systems Science & Policy) is living in Phoenix and working with the State of Arizona, Department of Environmental Quality in the Air Quality Division's Planning Section. She writes the rules and regulations that keep Arizona in compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. "It is a great new step, and I am so excited to really get started." She sends her regards to everyone in ESSP.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Silveria, Janie

Coordinator of Reference Services
Library Learning Complex
Bldg 12

Class of '00

Amy Lauder (Liberal Studies) works at CSUMB in University Advancement as the events assistant. She spends her free time in her garden and with her dog Gwen.

Heather Casjens (Earth Systems Science & Policy), a scientific aid with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, was married on October 14, 2000.

Kristen Wood (Human Communication), who enrolled in the CSUMB CLAD/BCLAD Multiple Subject Credential Program at CSUMB this past May, works with a special education program at Forest Grove School in Pacific Grove.

Nicole Mendoza (Teledramatic Arts and Technology, and Telecommunication, Multimedia, and Applied Computing) has been working freelance for the past year. She recently produced a 90-minute live multicast, four-program series and currently works for CSUMB's News and Public Information Office.

Class of '01

Kechia Smith-Gran (Human Communication) will be attending UC Berkeley to work on her Masters in Journalism.

Alumni Association Membership = Benefits!

Call 831-582-GRAD[4723] for information on how to join the Alumni Association.

- Use of the CSUMB Library and other CSU campus libraries.
- Reduced rates at the CSUMB Bookstore.
- Outdoor Recreation Center rentals, trips, and classes.
- Reduced rates at World Theater Performances. Call 831-582-4580 for a listing of World Theater events.
- Membership discounts at the Otter Sports Center (831-582-3031).
- A CSUMB.EDU email address and access to FirstClass. See Otter Tidbits to learn about the monterey.edu to CSUMB.EDU transition.

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