



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2003

TAKE THE POLL JUST FOR FUN!

How much money are alumni making?

Go to:
CSUMBalumni.org
 and find out!

CSUMB ALUMNA STARTS NETWORKING ORGANIZATION



Lisa Piotrkowski at work at Armanasco Public Relations in Monterey

Lisa Piotrkowski, Class of '97, graduated from CSUMB and started her career on a fast track as an account executive. She soon felt a void among younger local professionals and co-founded the Monterey County Young Professionals Group (MCYPG). The organization offers networking opportunities to business professionals in their 20s and 30s.

Piotrkowski, MCYPG president, with co-founders Catherine Bowie, Elizabeth Ruese and Jessica Spitz of Armanasco Public Relations, Inc., organized the group after many of their peers indicated a desire to develop contacts among other career-oriented young people in the area.

"We look forward to providing support to alums who wish to work locally and achieve their professional goals," said Piotrkowski.

MCYPG seeks to help fill this need by providing young professionals with occasions to meet and mingle with peers, foster relationships, and encourage business development in a sophisticated, relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.

The CSUMB Alumni Association will co-host the next MCYPG Networking Mixer. All alumni and friends are invited to attend on **April 10, 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.** in the University Center Living Room. The cost is \$12, which includes appetizers and two drink coupons. You may get more information or RSVP at www.mcypg.com.

BECOMING A PART OF HISTORY

Alumni, students, parents, businesses and others can become a part of CSUMB's new learning courtyard. By purchasing a tile with their message or a name etched in it, they can contribute to the Science/Academic Center, scheduled to open this fall.

The tiles will be placed in the walls of the Granite Construction Learning Courtyard, named for the company which gave the first community donation to the project. The courtyard will surround the newly constructed science building, located at the heart of the campus. Donors can memorialize family members, honor graduating students, thank faculty members or promote their business name — all while helping to fund the landscaping surrounding CSUMB's first new building.



A variety of tile colors are available with your choice of a message.

"The courtyard will be more than just a traditional gathering place. We expect it to be a place of learning — an outdoor learning laboratory where students and faculty gather to learn about our natural surroundings," said Dr. Chris Hasegawa, ESSP professor and development coordinator.

CSUMB alumni can donate \$100 per tile. All but \$20 of each tile bought is tax-deductible. Tiles may be ordered on the web at CSUMB.edu/sciencecenter/tiles or by calling 831-582-3908.





The Alumni Association sponsored a free coffee hour on Halloween and gave away everyone's favorite treat — Krispy Kreme donuts! Staff, faculty members and students came to grab their treat and socialize. Board members sampling the treats were, from left to right, Greg Riley, Priscilla Angulo, Tessie Brodrick, Judie Swartz, Yesenia Parra, Nicole Mendoza, Mayra Llamas and Silka Saavedra.

President Peter Smith delivered his annual State of the University Address to faculty and staff on January 23, focusing on the campus construction activity underway, state economic constraints, and the challenges state budget reductions will bring to CSUMB. President Smith's full speech is online at the CSUMB.EDU/state website.

RECORD ENROLLMENT CONTINUES

The CSU system, the largest university system in the country, had a record 406,896 students enrolled at its 23 campuses for fall 2002. CSUMB set its own enrollment record with an increase of almost 15 percent, the largest percentage increase of any of the CSUs. The university opened in 1995 with 654 full-time equivalent (FTE) students and now boasts 3,551 FTEs.

The state cut this year's CSU system budget by \$125 million — a 4.7 percent reduction. The CSUMB share of that amount is about \$1.5 million. Budgetary savings and a hiring freeze will reduce most of the budget shortfall this year.

In order to continue to increase access for students and maintain educational quality, the CSU trustees have raised student fees this winter semester for the first time in eight years. With campus fees added to the CSU fee, CSUMB undergraduates pay \$1,855 for two semesters, which is less than the system average of \$1,926 per year. The CSU's \$1,926 fee level is the lowest of 15 national public institutions CSU uses for comparison purposes. The average of that group is \$4,584, more than double current CSU fees.

TAKE A FREE PRACTICE KAPLAN TEST!

Here's your opportunity to take a simulated exam under test-taking conditions. Computerized feedback reports will be ready one week after the tests are administered. The tests are sponsored by CSUMB Student Activities and Career Development and the Alumni Association. To register, call 1-800-KAP-TEST and reserve a seat.

- Date: Saturday, May 10
- Time: 9:00 A.M. for MCAT; 9:30 A.M. for LSAT; 10:00 A.M. for GMAT; 10:30 A.M. for GRE
- Location: CSUMB University Center

MCAT — Room 116	LSAT — Room 115
GMAT — Room 114	GRE — Ballroom

'SWEET' VALENTINES FOR STUDENTS!



Valentine's Day was especially "sweet" on campus as the Alumni Association offered conversational heart candy to students. Messages on the hearts were: Gotta luv ULRs, Go Otters, Grad 2 Be and Otter Be Mine. From left, Judie Swartz, board member, students Rick Chorjel and Eric Heffernan, and Priscilla Angulo, board member.



Our Big Fat Greek Auction

Board member Yesenia Parra gets bid from Provost Diane Cordero de Noriega.

At the Big Fat Greek Auction, an annual event to raise money for scholarships, Yesenia Parra, Alumni Association board member, mingled among the 200 plus guests and gathered bids on a donated hand-made scarf.

Provost Diane Cordero de Noriega did her part by bidding on the scarf. The association solicited several items to be auctioned off, including a hand-made quilt, sailing excursion on the bay, sightseeing flying trip down the coast, golf lessons and tickets to the MPC theater season. Proceeds from the items netted the Alumni Association over \$2,100. All the money will be used to award Alumni Vision student scholarships. Overall, the auction raised over \$27,000 for scholarships.

Yes! I want to keep the Vision. Sign me up for the CSUMB Alumni Association.

- Lifetime Membership for \$225. Receive all membership benefits and your choice of a chrome or brass CSUMB alumni licenseplate frame. Check your preference: Brass Chrome
- Annual Membership for \$35.00
- I want to enroll in the Lifetime Membership Payment Plan. I agree to make five (5) payments of \$45 over a one-year period for a total of \$225. Payments can be automatically charged to my credit card approximately every two months.

Signature _____ Date _____

With initial payment you will receive a one-year membership card. Upon final payment you will be mailed a Lifetime Membership Card and a chrome or brass CSUMB alumni licenseplate frame. Check your preference: Brass Chrome

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to the CSUMB Alumni Association.

Or charge to: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ email _____@_____

Social Security # _____ Class Year _____ Major _____

Please check the appropriate boxes if you are interested in participating in any of the following Alumni Association activities:

- Alumni board Fundraising Special events
- Member recruitment Campus relations Web development

QUESTIONS? Please call 831-582-4723 or email alumni@csumb.edu

Mail this form, with your payment, to: CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 86A, Seaside, CA 93955

Send this form back to us and we'll send you a CSUMB alumni decal!

The Alumni Association wants to stay connected to you! Please complete this form to help us update our alumni database and we'll notify you of opportunities to keep you connected with CSUMB. Mail it to: CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, 86A, Seaside, CA 93955. Or go to our website CSUMBalumni.org and complete the form online. Either way, we want you to stay connected. If you have any questions, please contact us at 831-582-4723 or alumni@csumb.edu. All information is kept confidential. We do not sell our mailing lists to any other organization.

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Day phone () _____ Evening phone () _____
Email _____@_____
Year graduated _____ Major _____ Last four digits of your social security number ____ _

Are you ready to give back to CSUMB? Check any of the areas listed below that interest you and you'll be invited to participate in those activities.

- Mentor a student or alum
- Be available to parents of current students who have questions about CSUMB
- Become involved with the Alumni Association board or its committees

If we should lose track of you, is there someone to contact who would probably always know how to reach you?

Name _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Day phone () _____ email _____@_____
Relationship to you _____

EVENTS

Career Day 2003

April 10, 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

University Center Ballroom

Alumni are invited to attend Career Day, sponsored by Student Activities and Career Development. Admission is free. For a list of employers attending Career Day, go to <http://sacd.csumb.edu>.

Happy Hour Networking Mixer

April 10, 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.



Young professionals enjoy Networking Night.

University Center Living Room
Networking Night is sponsored by Monterey County Young Professionals Group and the Alumni Association.

Meet and network with young professionals from Monterey County and alumni of CSUMB.
Cost: \$12 for appetizers/two drinks
For more information email mcyppg@armanasco.com or call 831-582-4723.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

April 11—12, 8:00 P.M.; April 13, 2:00 P.M.

World Theater

Presented by CSUMB's Institute for Teledramatic Arts and Technology
Tickets: \$10 general public; \$5 Alumni Association members
For more information call 831-582-3750.

5th Annual Heritage Music Festival

April 26, 6:00 P.M.

World Theater

Presented by CSUMB's Music and Performing Arts Institute
Tickets: \$25 general public; \$15 Alumni Association members
For more information call 831-582-4085.

Chitresh Das Dance Company

May 1, 7:30 P.M.

World Theater

The *Chitresh Das Dance Company* uses the ancient form of Kathak (classical dance of northern India) as a way of breaking down cultural barriers and making the art accessible to all.

Tickets: \$25 general public; \$20 Alumni Association members
For more information call 831-582-4580.

Perla Batalla

May 7, 7:30 P.M.

World Theater

Hearing Perla Batalla's voice for the first time is an epiphany. Comfortable in both English and Spanish, and proud of her Mestiza heritage, Batalla's singing is an experience to be savored at every opportunity.

Tickets: \$25 general public; \$20 Alumni Association members

For more information call 831-582-4580. *Perla Batalla*



CSUMB Commencement Ceremony

May 24, 10:00 A.M.

Freeman Stadium

LOST ALUMNI!

We're trying to obtain current addresses for the following alums. Please email us at alumni@csumb.edu if you know where we can reach them.

Anderson, Ann
Baronian, Sara
Benbow, Ted
Bisby, Roxanne
Borg, George
Brooks, Megan
Campbell, Colin
Chairez, Adriana
Chittano, Michelle
Colvin, Lindsay
Contreras, Rito
Cornelsen, Amy
DeAnda, Braulio
Dixson-Clark, Katherine
Eckhardt, Sherri
Enriquez, Veronica
Feikert, Bronwyn
Gara, Thomas
Garcia, Leticia
Garcia, Martina Cruz
Glenn, April
Guzowski, Theodore
Hager, Rachel
Hayes, Cassandra
Hensler, David
Hodge, Daniel
Hoebel, Renee
Hoss, Natalie
Johnson, Matthew Philip
Keller, Mina
Lopez, Kathy

Lucido, Cori
Mann, Jennifer
Martin, Tamra Joy
Martinez, Patricia
McReynolds, Tammy Kathleen
Michael, Vivian
Moulton, Jeremy
Myers, Steven
Oliveira, Alvaro
Perez, Maria
Petrinovich, Elizabeth
Ping Chen, Amy
Prather, Summer
Price, Christina
Rivera, Debra
Rocha Castillo, Maria
Salib, Silvia
Salvieto, Vanessa Mae
Smith, Heidi
Sorenson, Janet
Stevens, Kim
Suich, Vincent
Tasto, Christiana
Thompson, Katherine
Thornberry, Katherine
Wallin, Cristal
Weiner, Jason
Wingfield, Kent
Wiskel, Michelle
Zamora, Elvia
Zuschin, Cynthia

MAKING FINALS WEEK A LITTLE EASIER



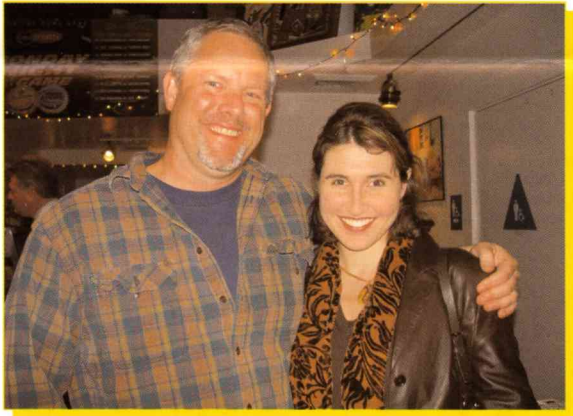
From left, Nick King and Eric Stowe take a respite from studying to enjoy the snacks provided by the Alumni Association during finals week.

MANY ALUMS ARE CSUMB EMPLOYEES

Many people don't realize how many CSUMB alums now work as university employees. In mid-January, the Alumni Association hosted a mixer at the BBC for these dedicated individuals. Over 50 alums work at CSUMB — in Academic Affairs, IT, University Advancement, VPA, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, University Police and other areas. At the recent event, President Smith welcomed the alumni and thanked them for their contributions to CSUMB — first as students and now as employees.



Annabelle Rodriguez (left), High School Equivalency Program project coordinator, is shown receiving an Alumni Association license plate frame from Nicole Mendoza, association president.



Mark and Natasha Oehlman met at CSUMB as students, got married, and are both working at the university. Mark is a faculty member at ICST and Natasha is the writing coordinator at ASAP.

CALL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Are you ready to get involved with the Alumni Association? The Nomination Committee is now seeking alumni who are interested in serving as board members of the association. Board members set policy for the association and serve as ambassadors of CSUMB to the community. Board members meet six times a year and are expected to work on a committee. If you are interested, or would like more information about the role and responsibilities of board members, contact Tessie Brodrick, chair of the Nomination Committee, at 831-633-0222 or email her at tessie_brodrick@csumb.edu.

OTTER FODDER

1999

Gonzalo Coronado (CHHS) has completed his MBA at San Jose State. He will become director of the Diabetes Health Center of the Pajaro Valley Health Trust in Watsonville.

Shawn De Haven (WLC) moved to Japan in 1999 after graduation. He taught middle school English for two years and now works as a graphic/web designer at a company in Tokyo where he designs touch panels for home control systems. Shawn still keeps track of Otter sports and wishes he could get back to see a basketball game once in a while.

2001

Mina Keller (ICST/TMAC) has been awarded a Trustee's Scholarship and is pursuing an MBA with a concentration in marketing.

Romeo Manzano (SBS) is currently employed by the State of California Department of Employment. He plans to pursue a Masters in Human Resources and Organizational Development in the fall of 2003.

MORE OTTER FODDER?

Send contributions for Otter Fodder to alumni@csumb.edu

CHEERING ON THE TEAM

The Alumni Association sponsored the CSUMB vs. Hayward double-header basketball game held on campus. All participants received pom-poms to cheer the Otters on to victory. The association hosted the half-time activities, which included a free-throw contest and a raffle to win alumni merchandise.



Pictured from left to right at basketball game are student ambassadors Julia Montgomery, Erica McSwane-Williams, and board members Nile Duppstadt, Silka Saavedra, Judie Swartz and Mayra Llamas.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole Mendoza, '00 — *President*

Nile Duppstadt, '01 — *President Elect*

Silka Saavedra, '99 — *Secretary*

Greg Riley, '02 — *Chief Financial Officer*

Tessie Brodrick, '97 — *Immediate Past President*

Sky Rappoport, '97

Priscilla Angulo, '00

James Frazier, '97 and '01

Shawn Burson, '00

Mayra Llamas, '00

Christine Svendsen, '01

Judie Swartz, '98

Yesenia Parra, '02

Mary Porter, '02

Julie Uretsky, '99

CSUMB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

This is a summary of the Alumni Association's financial activity through January 31, 2003.

Year	Income	Expense	Balance
98-02	\$64,045	\$28,485	\$35,560
02-03	10,411	5,353	5,058
Totals	<u>\$74,456</u>	<u>\$33,838</u>	<u>\$40,618</u>

Endowment scholarship fund: \$6,230

— Greg Riley, CFO

IN MEMORIUM

Jennifer Dawn Pizzica (Pollock), an alumna of CSUMB who received a teaching credential in 2000, passed away in January following a short illness. She was 28 years old. Jennifer was a first-grade teacher at Elkhorn Elementary School. We extend our condolences to her family, friends and students.

Front page banner photo —

Board members and student ambassadors attend a holiday reception at University House. From left, Silka Saavedra, Mayra Llamas, Judie Swartz, Nile Duppstadt, President Peter Smith, Flor Vargas, Greg Riley, Julia Montgomery, Sally Smith, Nicole Mendoza and Sasha Sanchez. Photo by Karen Mendonca.



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Monterey Bay

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TALES FROM THE OTTER SIDE

Judie Swartz, Class of '98



CSUMB TRIVIA

How many alumni are still living in the Tri-County area? Go to CSUMBalumni.org to find out.