



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2004

BREAKING GROUND FOR THE NEW ALUMNI & VISITORS CENTER

Groundbreaking for CSUMB's Alumni & Visitors Center took place on March 11, following removal of two former Army buildings on the site. The new center will rise at the corner of 3rd Street and 4th Avenue. Site preparation got underway immediately



The groundbreaking on the site for the Alumni & Visitors Center included representatives from CSUMB, Alumni Association, Economic Development Agency, local government and the general contractors for the project.

following the groundbreaking. Completion is currently scheduled for early next year.

"For such a young university, we will be fortunate to have a place our alumni can call home," said Stephanie Regevig, director, alumni relations. "The Alumni & Visitors Center will be a place for alums to congregate for special events, as well as committee and board meetings. They'll always have a place to visit for maintaining a bond with CSUMB."

The center will serve as the gateway to the university for alumni and all guests. The 12,500 square-foot building will be a central meeting point for

(continued on page 7)

PUBLIC SERVICE IS HER LIFE

Kathryn Ramirez, Liberal Studies '98, has focused on a career in public service for most of her life. She is the District Four Trustee for the Salinas Union High School District. Ramirez is also employed by the federal government at the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC), located near CSUMB. The agency compiles and maintains data on all U.S. military personnel.

"After working as a teacher at a local college, I decided to try something a little different," said Ramirez. "I just started a new position with DMDC, which falls under the Department of Defense. Since I decided to dedicate myself to working with and for the public, I figured the federal government was a clear choice."

Her long-term career goal is to continue in local politics, working her way up to the congressional level.

"I've always had a leaning toward public service. I guess a lot of it stems from my upbringing. I've wanted to help people and represent those

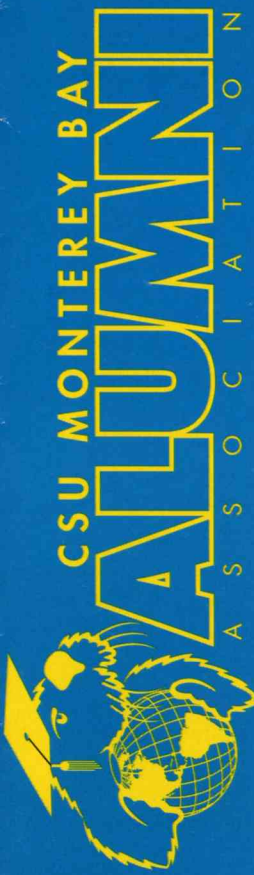
whose voices may not be heard. I have been fortunate enough to receive a good education, and I just want to do whatever small things I can to help ensure those same opportunities for others."



Kathryn Ramirez being sworn in as a trustee of the Salinas Union High School District.

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Submit a name for this newsletter and win a great prize!
Details on page 2.



MARIA GIURIATO JUGGLES A BUSY LIFE

Salinas city councilmember, Monterey County department manager, wife and mother of two. This accurately describes Maria Giuriato, former HCOM student.



Maria Giuriato at work as community relations manager for the County of Monterey

Giuriato serves as the District 5 councilmember for the City of Salinas. She has also worked for the county as community relations manager for the Department of Social Services for the past six years.

"My long term goals are to continue in the political arena and to work in an environment that helps me support members of our society who are struggling against insurmountable odds to escape poverty," she said.

Giuriato is responsible for community and government relations pertaining to legislation, policy and resources. In addition to representing her department to all levels of government, she is directly involved with the community regarding affordable housing, healthcare, education, mentoring, legislation, policy and community engagement. Specific services offered include emergency response to child abuse, elder care and referrals for foster care, emergency benefits and Medi-Cal.

"Education and knowledge are the keys to addressing injustice in our community," said Giuriato. "This is why I continue to be involved in the education arena and serve as a mentor to several youth every year.

"CSUMB inspired me to continue my life-long goal of providing knowledge and opportunities to people who aren't always in the loop. It also gave me insight into how and why others communicate the way they do. My ethics training has also allowed me the insight to relate to others at a whole different level of reflection and understanding."

Giuriato would like to return to CSUMB in the future for a master's degree. She just needs to find a way to balance the time commitment to further her education — in addition to being a dedicated mom, county manager and city councilmember. ❖

NEW LIBRARY GETS \$4 MILLION

In appreciation for a \$4 million donation from two local families, CSUMB is naming its future library the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library.

"The library will be located at the hub of academic activities on campus," said President Peter Smith. "It will be the intellectual and physical heart of the campus when it is completed in early 2007."

The 200,000 square foot, three and four-story building is designed to take advantage of the moderate prevailing climate, incorporating natural ventilation, natural materials and natural light. The centerpiece for the campus, it will be located on what's been dubbed the "Heart of Green" — the open space the new library will face.

The library will be the single largest building constructed at CSUMB. It's intended to eventually serve 8,000 students on campus and several thousand off-campus distance learners, as well as residents of the region. ❖



The architect's model of CSUMB's future library building

NEWSLETTER NAMING CONTEST

Our *Alumni Newsletter* needs a better name! Come up with a short, catchy phrase that will grow with our newsletter as it continues to mature. All submissions will be reviewed by the Alumni Newsletter/Web Committee, and the top three to five entries will be posted on our website so everyone can vote for their favorite. The Alumni Association board of directors will approve a winner at its board meeting in June.

The person who submits the winning name will receive a \$50 gift certificate for alumni merchandise and be recognized in the fall '04 issue of the soon-to-be-named alumni newsletter.

All submissions must be received by Friday, April 23. You may e-mail them to alumni@csumb.edu or send them to the Alumni Office at 100 Campus Center, 86A, Seaside, CA 93955. The top submissions will be posted on the website throughout the month of May. Remember to go to csumbalumni.org to vote for your choice!

EXPLORING THE SEAS WITH NOAA

Ensign Jason Mansour, ESSP '03, has graduated from basic officer training of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. NOAA, short for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is a uniformed service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Mansour is now on his first assignment as an officer aboard the 215-foot NOAA fisheries research ship *Miller Freeman*, based out of Seattle.

New NOAA Corps recruits, who must have degrees in science, engineering or mathematics, learn all aspects of ship management before they begin tours aboard NOAA



Jason Mansour aboard the Miller Freeman, ready for sea duty

vessels. Once assigned to a vessel for the first two-year tour, each officer works with a senior officer on the bridge and begins specialized training in hydrographic surveys, fishery research and trawling, or oceanic

and atmospheric research. As an officer aboard the *Miller Freeman*, Mansour assists in conducting a variety of ship-board operations, including fisheries and oceanographic research and trawl gear testing.

Scientists board the fishery research vessel to perform trawling or surveying of a certain section of the ocean floor. The ship's officers, including Mansour, take the scientific party to the location where it needs to conduct its research.

"Through my ESSP experiences and education, I found myself well prepared for the broad range of challenges that NOAA offers a young officer," said Mansour. "From learning how to navigate the ship, to working with a complement of crew and officers from very diverse backgrounds, to multi-tasking operations at once, the classes and instructors within ESSP gave me the knowledge, skills and discipline to do it all."

As for future plans, Mansour hopes to enter the NOAA flight training program, with the ultimate goal of flying a four-engine P-3 Orion "Hurricane Hunter" airplane. ❖

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SCIENCE CENTER IDEAL FOR LEARNING

During October 2003, CSUMB celebrated the grand opening of the first new building to be constructed on campus. The Patricia and Robert Chapman Science Academic Center houses the Division of Science and Environmental Policy, as well as the Mathematics and Statistics Department. The building was named after Patricia and Robert Chapman, Salinas residents, who donated \$2.5 million toward the building's completion.



At the dedication of the new Chapman Science Academic Center, President Peter Smith addressed the audience.

The classrooms are designed to create learning environments capable of serving multiple teaching formats — from individual



Panoramic view of one of the new science center's spacious labs

© 2003 John Edward Linden

experiments to impromptu team study. An alumni networking mixer was held at the Chapman Science Center in November. Over 30 alums and their friends enjoyed tours of the new facility, along with complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. ❖

"OPERATION: AWAY FROM HOME"

"I guess I give an alternative look at the way things are over here, compared to CNN," said Greg Hamer, TMAC major, who graduated in December '03. "The things you see on CNN have rarely happened to me."



Greg Hamer (center) at the ceremony where he was promoted to sergeant E-5.

<http://www.jeep-xj.com/diary/>. Hamer set up the site to maintain contact with his friends while overseas. By posting his observations of life in Iraq, he only needs to write once and all his acquaintances can read about the war as he lives it. Since its inception, the website has grown beyond Hamer's expectations, exceeding 300,000 hits. People from around the world have e-mailed him — even sending him "care packages." The site keeps people at CSUMB, his family in Europe, and other interested individuals apprised of what he is doing overseas.

During February 2003 Hamer's guard unit was activated for deployment to Iraq.

"I enlisted in December 1999, partly because I always had the urge to join a branch of the armed forces but I could never commit 100 percent," said Hamer. "This is why I chose to join the California National Guard. Another reason was that I was in the middle of my sophomore slump. I was bored with school and wanted to get away from computers for a while, or at least during the weekends."

Hamer was promoted to sergeant in September while stationed in Kuwait. He works with heavy equipment transports — vehicles designed to move massive M1 Abrams tanks. He is the non-commissioned officer in charge of the mechanics on his team. Their mission is to fix disabled vehicles along the road or tow them back to a safe area.

"I have seen a lot of the world. I've traveled to South America, lived in many parts of Europe, and seen most of the U.S., but nothing prepares you for what you see here in Iraq. It is awesome and terrible at the same time. The people are incredibly friendly, but if you turn your back you can be shot by the one guy in a crowd of hundreds who doesn't like you. The weather here reaches temperatures that you never imagine possible and, to be quite frank, I am still in denial of how hot it was last summer.

"I don't plan on a military career," Hamer offered when asked about his future plans. "I hope to have a very successful career on the civilian side, working with computers and networks." ❖

This is how Hamer describes his experiences as a U.S. Army reservist on duty in Iraq. He posts these firsthand accounts of daily life and experiences in Iraq on his personal website, which he has named "Operation: Away from Home," at

MASTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

CSUMB's Interdisciplinary Master's of Arts in Public Policy (MPP) program equips students pursuing a public service career with the knowledge and skills needed to 1) analyze, design and implement public policies; 2) promote civic responsibility; 3) improve the quality and responsiveness of government; 4) empower citizens to work for social and economic justice; and 5) advocate for actions that optimize the health and well-being of the community.

The Health, Human Services and Public Policy Department has extended the application deadline for the fall 2004 MPP degree program to June 1, 2004.

For more information about this degree program, contact Paula Hernandez at 831-582-4157 or send an e-mail to mpp@csumb.edu. ❖

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Here's your opportunity to get involved with the Alumni Association and, most importantly, help raise funds for scholarships. Last year, the association sold 110 memberships and raised \$1,800 from sales at commencement for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. The association is seeking volunteers to assist with GradFest and Commencement.

GradFest

Volunteer opportunities: Sign up graduating seniors for association memberships and sell association merchandise.

When: Wednesday, April 7, 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Where: University Center

Commencement

Volunteer opportunities: Sell memberships, association merchandise, flowers and refreshments.

When: Saturday, May 22, 7:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

Where: Freeman Stadium

For more information, call 831-582-3595 or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu.

Kathryn Ramirez (continued from page 1)

"CSUMB is a major inspiration in my life. As a student, I learned that anything I want is possible. My teachers — the backbone of CSUMB — provided me the encouragement, guidance and desire to succeed. The best part about my teachers is that they are still just a phone call away, and they still inspire me!

"It's good to know that when I left CSUMB, CSUMB didn't leave me. I truly have fond memories of friendships, past and present, that originated at the university. The CSUMB community allowed me to grow into the person I aspired to become. Although college was just one step, I believe it was a major one." ❖

OTTER FODDER

2002

Janelle Sanders (HCOM) works at the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. She also devotes her time to Share Our Strength, a national anti-poverty, anti-hunger organization. During her vacation, Janelle is looking forward to spending a month hiking the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Amanda Topp (HCOM) works as a marine instructor at an outdoor school for the Catalina Island Marine Institute.



Tracy Burke at work at KWAV radio.

radio in Monterey. With an emphasis in journalism/media studies, she enjoys working in her chosen field.

William Ritz (CS) is a district representative in Salinas for California State Senator Jeff Denham (R-Salinas). Bill is also involved with the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Levi Hanzel Sello (LS) was recently married to **Priya Mishra**, an '03 CSUMB grad. He is currently teaching first grade in Hayward.

Carli Young (HCOM) is a certified orthopedic technologist at Monterey Peninsula Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.

2000

Shawna T. Bernal (Powelson-Smith) (LS) works for the Health Bridge Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. She earned her California Family Health Worker certificate in 2001 and a speech and language pathologist assistant license in 1983.

Misty O'Brien (MIE) is self-employed as an insurance broker. She plans to open her own insurance brokerage office in 2004.

1999

Avi Alalouf (TMAC) is working on a master's degree in organizational management at the University of Phoenix.

2001

Tracy Burke (HCOM) works as the public service director and sales assistant at KWAV

Michael Hall (ESSP) works for Farmer's Insurance. He is married to **Xaviera Cooper** (HCOM), also a member of the class of '99. They have two children.

Gabriella Moreno (CHS) completed a tour with the Peace Corps in '01. She will be receiving her master's in social work from the University of Hawaii in May '04.

Steven Russell (VPA) is a first-year teacher in the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and working to obtain his teaching credential. Community oriented, he finds time to volunteer for a number of organizations.

Stephanie Smith (HCOM) is currently attending the University of Washington, working toward a master's degree in multicultural education.

Aron Szamos (SBS) is coordinator of student development for the College of Engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He has completed an M.S. in counseling, with a double specialization in career counseling and college counseling. He is engaged to be married in '04 to alumna **Sarah Greco** (SBS), also a member of the class of '99.

1998

Michelle Edgar (WLC) works as a doula, providing home intrauterine inseminations. She is also an apprentice home birth midwife and a student at the National Midwifery Institute. She was married in '02.

Phil Mell (TAT) is hard at work with a film career in the Los Angeles area. He recently produced a sci-fi film and is currently working on another.

1997

Laura Nicholls (Parker) (SBS) teaches first grade in the Ventura Unified School District. She was married in July '03. At her wedding,



CSUMB alumnas Ericka Thompson (Von Gunden) (HCOM) and **Kelly Chard** (LS) served as attendants.

LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

Share news about your career, accomplishments and changes in your life with fellow alums through the *Alumni Newsletter*. Along with your news item, send your address, phone number, degree earned, major, graduation year and a current color photo. Mail to Alumni Association Newsletter, CSUMB, 100 Campus Center, 86A, Seaside, CA 93955, or e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu.



TAT REUNION IN LOS ANGELES

Enjoying themselves at a recent TAT alumni reunion in Los Angeles are, from left, Erin Busch, Sergio Rodriguez, Brian Wilcox, Kristen LaMantia, Chris Wong, Joe Pestana, Phil Mell, Stefanie Laney, Jake Cooney, Heather Longerbeam, Nicholas Klein, Jamie Burns, Anthony Puente, David Kashevaroff, Todd Francone, Laura Hirsh, Steven Levinson, TAT faculty and reunion organizer, Soua Her and Nick Rini. Also at the reunion, but not pictured, were Casey Richards, Chris Johnson, Doug Mueller, Kawika Davenport, Rachel Perez and Steven Itano Wasserman.

BECOME AN OTTER AMBASSADOR

As an alum of CSUMB, you have the opportunity to help your alma mater in student recruitment activities, including college fairs, receptions and On-Campus Admissions Day. Here's how you can get involved:

- Meet prospective students and their parents at spring 2004 receptions in your local area. Locations include San Jose, San Diego, Orange, Santa Maria, Sacramento, Modesto and CSUMB.
- Represent CSUMB at fall 2004 college fairs in your geographic area.
- You will receive a brief training session in CSUMB admissions policies and a free Alumni Association membership! If you're already a member, get a \$35.00 gift voucher for alumni merchandise. For more information, call Rich Toledo at 831-582-3739 or download the form at csumbalumni.org by clicking *Otter Ambassadors* under *Giving Back*.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

All Alumni Association members are invited to attend. Come and learn more about your association and the future development of CSUMB's Master Plan.

When: Wednesday, April 14, 2004, 6:30 P.M.

Where: University Center



YES! I WANT TO KEEP THE VISION AND JOIN THE ASSOCIATION

Your membership dollars help support student scholarships and Capstone Grants for graduating seniors. Since 2002, the Alumni Association has awarded 7 scholarships to CSUMB students. The Association recently received 16 applications from graduating seniors for the Alumni Association Capstone Grant. These applications are currently being evaluated by the Scholarship Committee and students will be notified by the end of March.

As an alum, you also receive benefits with your membership, including:

- access to all CSU libraries, career services and FirstClass;
- discounts for courses at Kaplan, Inc., auto and home insurance, on Otter Sports Center membership and World Theater performances;
- invitations to special events and networking opportunities.

For a complete list of benefits please go to csumbalumni.org and click on *Savings* under *Benefits*.

Join the Alumni Association now for an annual price of \$35.00 or join for life for \$225! Lifetime members receive a chrome or brass CSUMB Alumni license plate frame and may opt for the payment plan. If you are interested in joining please log on to our secure e-commerce web site to purchase online or call 831-582-3595.

EXCLUSIVE ITEMS AT THE E-COM STORE

Joining the Alumni Association and ordering merchandise can now be handled over the association's secure e-commerce website. E-com makes it easy to purchase a membership to the association, as well as a wide variety of alumni merchandise.

Browse through the association store and check out the unique clothing, videos and much more! ❖



Go to CSUMBalumni.org to order alumni goodies.

alums and contain Alumni Association offices. Association business, alumni mixers and other events will be held there. The operations of CSUMB's University Advancement Division, which includes fundraising, publications and media relations, will also have offices in the new building. The building will feature a spacious meeting area and will be staffed to provide information for all visitors to the campus.

Until early 2004, two old military buildings were on the site of the future Alumni & Visitors Center. The two buildings were "deconstructed," which means that their boards were disassembled in the reverse order of construction. At a recovery facility on campus, the lead paint was removed from the boards and the wood milled for reuse as lumber for new construction. If the deconstruction process had not been used to remove the buildings, the lead-painted boards would have gone to a landfill, incurring enormous financial and environmental costs. If this CSUMB pilot study proves economically feasible, the pioneering method can be used to remove old buildings on military bases across the U.S. ❖

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The *Alumni Newsletter* is published twice a year by CSUMB University Advancement. Content is based on information available at press time. Submissions are invited and encouraged. Please mail information to Alumni Association — Newsletter, CSUMB, 100 Campus Center, 86A, Seaside, CA 93955, send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu or call 831-582-GRAD (4723).

MONEY RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alumni Association has once again joined forces with the *Have a Heart for Students* committee to raise money for student scholarships. This year, the Alumni Association received \$5,665 for items that were either donated or solicited by alumni members for the *Have a Heart for Students* auction event held on February 12th.



Judie Swartz, Alumni Association board member, donated a watercolor painting for the auction. She is shown wearing a handknit scarf donated by Brook Kruse.

Overall, the event raised a total of \$55,230 for student scholarships. This is a \$25,000 increase over last year.

Proceeds from the auction enable the association to continue funding scholarships for deserving students and to continue its newest program of offering Capstone Grants to graduating seniors.

Among the items donated directly for the Alumni Association were a handmade quilt that was auctioned for \$1,900 and a one-week stay at the Caye Casa resort in Belize, which brought in \$2,800.

Plans are already underway for spring '05. If you would like to get involved in this wonderful event, please call 831-582-4723 or e-mail alumni@csumb.edu ❖

CSUMB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION FINANCIAL REPORT

This is a summary of the Alumni Association's financial activity through March 3, 2004.

Foundation Account	\$43,227.98
Endowment Scholarship Fund	\$20,862.90
Scholarship Fund	\$2,175.00

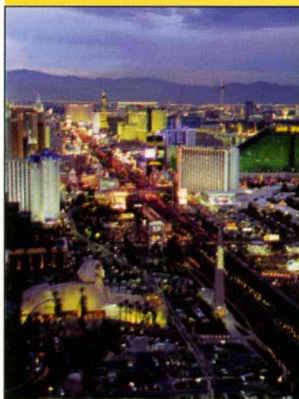
For more detailed information, please go to csumbalumni.org and click on *Association Meetings* under *Membership*.

— Greg Riley, CFO

UPCOMING EVENTS!

WEEKEND GETAWAY IN LAS VEGAS

Join your fellow alums for a reunion in exciting Las Vegas! Mark the dates, Friday through Sunday, April 23 - 25. On



Las Vegas News Bureau

Friday night at 10:00 P.M., meet former classmates in Sinbad's Lounge at the Aladdin Hotel on the Strip. There's also a happy hour on Saturday, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Let the Alumni Office know if you're planning to attend so we can keep you advised of the latest news. RSVP by April 9, at alumni@csumb.edu or call 831-582-3595.

L.A. DODGERS VS. ANAHEIM ANGELS

Springtime and baseball season are right around the corner. On Sunday, June 27, CSUMB alums have a great opportunity to meet up with their friends for the 3rd Annual CSU Day at Dodger Stadium! Last year, this successful event attracted 22 CSUMB alums. The game time is 1:10 P.M. Tickets are \$15.00 each, which includes one "Dodger Dog" and a soft drink. All tickets must be purchased by June 4.



Purchase tickets on-line at csumbalumni.org by clicking *Dodgers Tickets* under *Store Categories*. For more information, call 831-582-3595 or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu.

ALUMNI TAILGATE PARTY AT A'S GAME

Join the fun on Sunday, July 18 at Oakland's Network Associates Coliseum for a great tailgate party! It begins at 11:00 A.M., allowing lots of time to enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, chips, cookies and soft drinks. Chat with fellow alums before the game against the Chicago White Sox begins at 1:05 P.M. The ticket price is \$16 for current



Alumni Association members and \$20 for guests. The seats are located at field level, Section 108 — a \$26 value!

For bobblehead collectors, a Vida Blue

Bobblehead will be handed out at the gate to the first 15,000 fans.

Tickets must be purchased by June 30. You may pay for tickets on-line at csumbalumni.org by clicking on *A's Tickets* under *Store Categories*. For more information, call 831-582-3595 or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu.



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THE PLAYERS WEREN'T THE ONLY WINNERS AT THE AT&T PRO AM

The Alumni Association offered an unexpected special membership benefit this winter. Each current member received a postcard announcing the opportunity to enter a drawing to win two tickets to "Alumni Day at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro Am," held on February 4th.

Almost 40 people entered the drawing, with eight lucky alumni and their guests able to attend. They enjoyed watching the practice rounds in the morning and Celebrity Challenge in the afternoon.



Watching the celebrities at the AT&T Pro-Am are, from left, Tessie Brodrick, Priscilla Angulo and Silka Saavedra, current alumni members.