CSUMB Commencement: A Really Big Event!

by Laura Cazares

The 21st Campus for the 21st Century Hits a Milestone

"We are living in an era in which it has become clear that education is one of the most valuable commodities in our quest for personal fulfillment." These were the opening remarks made by James Sloan, one of two student speakers at CSUMB, which hosted its first ever Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 24, 1997. Planners of the event, housed under a large tent located east of the campus library, anticipated a turnout of 2,500 spectators. In the end, about 3,000 members of both the on-campus and off-campus communities had attended.

A very small commencement ceremony was held last year for the 24 students who received their teaching credentials, but this was the first year that degrees were conferred. There were 152 undergraduate students awarded diplomas and 62 post graduate students expected to receive their credential in teaching. CSUMB did not name a valedictorian but selected one student to receive the President's Award for Exemplary Student Achievement. This went to Gregory Balza, a Social and Behavioral Science major. Two other award recipients in the area of Service Learning were Troy Challenger and Andrea Woody.

One of many in attendance was Bill Monning, Senior Associate and Director of the Project on Negotiation, Center for Trade and Commercial Diplomacy, for the Monterey Institute of International Studies. When questioned about the historic ceremony, Mr. Monning replied, "What a magnificent achievement amidst the many challenges and pressures that have accompanied the birthing of a new university. The ceremony itself was incredibly well-organized...and the participation of Hon. Leon Panetta offered an appropriate historical connection to the original base closure and conversion of Ft. Ord. Leon played a major role in the process and articulated his vision of continuing the process of converting swords to ploughshares."

Included in the exercises was the conferral of two honorary degrees of Doctors of Humane Letters. One was awarded posthumously to artist, poet, journalist, and writer Jose Antonio Burciaga, 1940-1996. In speaking about Mr. Burciaga, Mr. Monning continued to express appreciation for the day. He kindly stated, "The tribute to Jose Antonio Burciaga also made the event especially significant. How proud he would have been (and was) of the graduates and those who helped them to achieve this stage of their dreams." The other honorary degree was given to Former White House Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta.

It was in the conferral of Mr. Panetta's honorary degree that presenter Michael Stennis covered the recipient's history of positions held. In his remarks Mr. Stennis stated that after sixteen years in congress, Mr. Panetta was, "appointed by President Clinton to direct the office of Management and Budget, Where he..."
Dear Editor:

Sometimes I wonder though. I got up early this morning (5:20 am) so that I could recheck my classes before I went to register. I turned my computer on. It bombs... before I've even got on all of the way. So I restart. It bombed again. So I restart... ah up and running. I opened free ppp... it bombed. It proceeded to bomb three more times just on starting up. I restart again - it bombed. I restart again, ah up and running finally. Maybe there is a problem so I run a repair. No problems. I open up first class. It bombs, I restart. Maybe I have a virus. I open up netscape and download the disinfectant. It loads disinfectant to my desktop and then it bombs. I restart. I run disinfectant. No virus. Into first class... finally I can get on line. Now I open netscape so I can look at the schedule. It bombed.

By this time I decided that I would have to go on campus just to look at my schedule, I had already wasted an hour of my time. So much for trying to be prepared.

What is it with these computers? I have friends here on campus who have the same problems with their computers. Why would a computer just bomb out for no reason? The people down in networking and computing are really good at coming to the rescue, but they shouldn't have to do it so often. The presidential assistance program is a nice thought, but maybe Apple was generous to the school with these computers because of their quality. One person who owns a PC that has yet to bomb on him said that beggars can't be choosy, but how many of you would give your child a stone when they asked for bread?

Deborah Gadson

Commencement

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helped author the President's economic plan that produced four years of deficit reduction." Afterward Mr. Stennis joked, "Sounds governor like, doesn't it?"

Mr. Panetta also served as the keynote speaker. In his address Mr. Panetta brought the crowd to cheers when he said, "All of us become a new chapter in the rich history of the central coast of California. And to the students, the first class to graduate from this young university, you have earned the distinction of being number one."

In order to receive their diplomas, the graduates from the 21st campus in the CSU system were required to demonstrate competency and academic excellence in the areas of language, computer literacy, and social responsibility. All of this was in addition to the general requirements for their majors.

When asked how he was feeling prior to graduation, Billy Coleman, graduating Social and Behavioral Sciences major, eloquently stated, "I feel so grateful to be alive and to be a part of this process. Even more importantly, I feel appreciative that I am the first African-American to walk across that stage. Maybe we can make a difference for other people of all walks of life, and maybe we can speed up the time when everyone can enjoy a higher quality of living."

All of this did not come without a cost. Some members of the on-campus community have raised questions, and eyebrows, concerning the bottom line cost to the university for the event. The expenses for the commencement are estimated at $94,287.26. This amount does not include an investment made by CSUMB with Armanasco Public Relations Firm with whom CSUMB contracted to raise funds for graduation week. The contract cost $30,892.02 which ultimately succeeded in bringing in $70,000 and counting, according to John McCutchon, the Executive Assistant for University Advancement.

It seems to me that the choice made by these "pioneer" students to invest not only their faith, time, and money, but also the future of their education, into this fledgling university, may have been a difficult one. Dealing with the "cutting-edge" curriculum and experimental teaching methods at CSUMB must have been, at times, a trying experience. But now that all is said and done and the caps and gowns have been donned, I am reminded of that famous poem by Robert Frost: Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference.

The idea behind senior Antonio Navarro's vivid comments made in the last page of his graduation speech parallels that of Frost; Said Navarro, "Emiliano Zapata's words, 'prefiero morir parado que vivir a rodillas' seemed to echo out in the strawberry field mist of his mind... 'I prefer to die standing than live on my knees.' Even though he would toil every summer in the fields, in school he studied until his education set him free on a path few have traveled." The path to CSUMB may not be paved, but thanks to the brave students who walked onto this campus in the fall of 1995, it has been forged. Congratulations, and thank you! 03

Commencement was a family affair for many CSUMB graduates
Netcast: The Wave of the Future

A netcast is not unlike a news cast or radio broadcast. The difference is that one does not need to own a television or radio station in order to convey their information across the world. There are, however, a few vital ingredients needed to cook up the event: a computer, scanner, digital camera, 35mm back-up camera (one can never be too sure), modem, video camera, and most importantly, space on a server.

As the netcast itself has a reach far beyond the geography of our quad. As stated by one of my fellow classmates, "incorporating technology with community seems the most logical step in advancing community involvement. Countless numbers of people log on to the Internet everyday to inform themselves of events that occur globally. Why not log on and find out what's happening in your own backyard? This natural evolution of communication technology parallels the development of public radio, television, and community use of cable channels." The Internet is the fastest way to send information, to send pictures, people can chat, and as we have learned and will learn, community networking is a great way to find out about our neighborhood, our city, our state, or any area about which we wish to learn.

My involvement in the Netcast began mid-spring of this year. Until then I had never heard of a "Netcast." But, once it was explained, the opportunity for involvement excited me. A netcast is not unlike a news cast or radio broadcast. The difference is that one does not need to own a television or radio station in order to convey their information across the world. There are, however, a few vital ingredients needed to cook up the event: a computer, scanner, digital camera, 35mm back-up camera (one can never be too sure), modem, video camera, and most importantly, space on a server. The idea was that, in the spirit of fast breaking news, we would have an almost live documentation of this memorable event. Also, it was a way to preserve the memories, call it an "on-line yearbook", evoking both nostalgia and excitement for what was and for what will be.

The vision statement for C.S.U.M.B. plainly states, "the University will invest in preparation for the future through integrated and experimental use of technologies." As students of social science, we are interested in how new technologies, and more specifically the Internet, are shaping our society. While there is no substitute for face to face interaction, the importance of the Internet should not be overlooked where both global and local communities are concerned. Dr. Baldwin uses the term "community capacity building," meaning increasing the potential for community. Surely this effort can be fostered with the proper use of technology. We have tested this idea in the classroom by setting up our own community network, not to be confused with virtual communities, and now we have applied it more directly to our campus community, though the netcast itself has a reach far beyond the geography of our quad. As stated by one of my fellow classmates, "incorporating technology with community seems the most logical step in advancing community involvement. Countless numbers of people log on to the Internet everyday to inform themselves of events that occur globally. Why not log on and find out what's happening in your own backyard? This natural evolution of communication technology parallels the development of public radio, television, and community use of cable channels." The Internet is the fastest way to send information, to send pictures, people can chat, and as we have learned and will learn, community networking is a great way to find out about our neighborhood, our city, our state, or any area about which we wish to learn.

These theories tie in extremely well with the idea behind C.S.U.M.B.'s first annual netcast. It is an amazing reality that a friend or family member unable to attend graduation events can check them out in their free time, by simply pointing their internet browser to: www.monterey.edu. CSUMB Otter Realm

July 1997
1. An eager graduate can't wait to begin conducting business via cell phone.
2. Graduate Alison Williams and her family at the Student/Parents Appreciation Breakfast.
3. Faculty members welcomed 3000 family, friends and graduates in several languages.
4. Graduates give thanks to family and friends.
5. Valerie Fiddmont sings the National Anthem.
6. CSU Chancellor Monitz speaks to the audience which gathered for Dr. Peter Smith's Installation.

CSUMB's first commencement

1. Troy Challenger, after receiving the Service Learning Award.
2. Andrea Woody won of two Service Learning Awards.
3. CSUMB Chorale performed at both the Installation and the Graduation Ceremony.
4. The late Jose Antonio Burciaga's wife, Cecelia, and children, Tonio and Rebecca, accept his honorary doctoral award.
COMMENCEMENT weekend came on the heels of a week full of activities. Of the week, President Smith said, "I thought that the graduation weekend was a transformational event in the history of CSUMB. We are different as an organization and a university as a result of the events that weekend. Critical factors in that were the formal dance, the Capstone Festival and the graduation itself. It was one of the most exciting and thrilling moments of my life. I have never been more proud of anything or group of people than I was the CSUMB community at Graduation weekend."

A spectacular celebration!

Happy Graduates 1997

Otter Realm

July 1997
Summer of Service Leadership Academy

The Service Learning Institute (SLI) at California State University, Monterey Bay congratulates the students selected to take part in this year's Service Learning Leadership Academy. This exciting opportunity is designed to prepare students with prior service learning experience to be effective leaders on campus and in their communities promoting the ethic of service and civic responsibility.

The following individuals have been invited to participate in the Service Learning Leadership Academy:

- Manuel Arenivaz
- Shannon Leon
- Sarah Lerma
- Ernesto Sanchez
- Muriel Stettler
- Bethina Woodridge
- Elizabeth Benitez
- Yuko Ito
- Darcie Warden
- Toi-Chene Garrison
- Michael Gerhardt
- Michele Coughran
- Natasha Blacker
- Victoria Castro

Service Learning Leadership Academy participants will:

- Be selected from competitive application process and will have successfully completed at least one service learning experience prior to start of SoSLA.
- Participate in Welcome Activities on Saturday, July 25 and Sunday, July 26.
- Commit to 30 hours per week of training and service (Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, July 28 - August 22, 1997).
- Receive a stipend of $600.00 for successful completion of the program.

The Academy will focus on leadership skills and community development principles. Sessions include building cultural awareness and sensitivity, positive self-esteem, leadership development, community diplomacy and civic responsibility. Exercises will be structured to provide reflection on how service experiences enhance learning. Skill building areas include: problem solving, time management, organizational skills, goal setting, conflict resolution, ethnographic recording and accuracy in fieldwork, site development, making effective presentations, utilizing technology, policies and placement procedures, and computer database training.

For further information about next year's academy, please contact Michelle Slade, Program Coordinator at 582-3631.

Dr. Peter Smith received the CSUMB medallion at his installation ceremony

Interviews

Grads give their opinions

Q: What classes or seminars would you think would be helpful in employment placement or transition from college to the working class?
A: Bring industry to CSUMB. A Career fair would be helpful. Preferably high tech jobs.
—Jason Dunton

A: Perhaps having local (or non local) business leaders come and conduct mock interviews with students, evaluate their resumes in a critical manner, and give feedback. Some departments are trying to incorporate these skills into their senior capstone course, but lets face it most students see these people as "teachers" not as potential employers, thereby making it more difficult to accept classroom based mock interviews.
—Sky Rappoport, Senior Business Major

Q: Has anyone (faculty or staff) been extremely helpful with your preparations for graduation, classes, resume', interviews etc.?
A: No. Helpful is not the word I would use. Obstacle, would be more correct.
—Jason Dunton

A: Although I have had a few minor problems at CSUMB, as we all have, the overall experience has been very enlightening, and enjoyable. We have a top notch faculty throughout most of the campus, who will learn to work together more as a team as time goes on. The first few years of any start up business (school) are expected to be rough as the wrinkles are ironed out, and as the staff develops an environment conducive to obtaining their goal. A few of the professors I especially enjoyed working with, and feel I really learned from include Jeff Froshman and Sandy Hale (ICE), Ruben Mendoza (SBSC), John Itleson and Gordon Freeman (CST). From the administration I have been very impressed with Ken Nishita (without Ken a lot of us would not be able to graduate on time), and Bert Rivus. Hurrah for the student advocates on campus.
—Sky Rappoport, Senior Business Major
Don’t Miss Out!

Alumni Benefits:
Congratulations to you on earning your degree from CSU, Monterey Bay! It’s our pleasure to invite you to participate in the life of the university by becoming a CSUMB Alumni Member. The Alumni Association plays an important role in the development of our university, while providing valuable benefits to alumni who join. Some of those benefits include:

- Discounts at the CSUMB Bookstore (10%) off clothing and gift merchandise (does not include software)
- Internet access
- Maintain your e-mail address access the Internet
- Alumni newsletter and alumni directory
- Networking opportunities
- Host special events to bring everyone together
- Free membership in the Alumni Association
- Pre-approved graduate membership at Price/Costco
- First year membership is free

How can you get involved?
- Establish an advisory board
- Develop a charter and set up a governing board
- Develop an alumni logo
- Other ideas, discussions, comments

If you have questions about the alumni association, please call Gina Rafkin at (408) 582-3346. Thanks for your interest and support! We look forward to your participation in CSUMB’s Alumni Association.

### Alumni Sign-up

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I would like to be involved in the Alumni Association by: (check preferred committees)
- Serving as a board member
- Social activities
- Community liaison
- Serving on a committee (membership, special events, publicity, publications, benefits)
- Newsletter/publications
- Grad task force committee

Skills I can provide (Please describe): (computer skills, database, desktop publishing, other)

Languages:

- I am not available at the present time to serve on any of the above; please keep me on the mailing list.

Please return form by September 1, 1997:
Interim Alumni Coordinator
University Advancement
CSU, Monterey Bay
100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955-8001

Staff and faculty at graduation in full regalia
Class of 1997

Top: Billy Coleman practices soaring before performing on stage. Bottom: Antonio Navarro takes a quiet moment to reflect on the end of his 20+ year higher education career.

Left: Former Chief of Staff to the President of the United States, Leon Panetta, and President Steve Aruiza in full grad garb. Right: Greg Balza accepts the President's Exemplary Student Award from Dr. Smith.

More than 50 enthusiasts take off for the "fun run." Inset: The agony of da-feet!