OTTER PROFILE —

Helping Kosovo’s kids get a good start

At her preschool in Kosovo, Danica Kumara is passionate about helping children continue their education.

Danica Kumara ('05 GS) has spent the last six months in the province of Kosovo, a region in the former Yugoslavia, running a preschool. As a volunteer with the nongovernmental organization Balkan Sunflowers, she lives with a host family in the village of Plemetina and works on “social reconstruction,” or the healing of the social wounds caused by the war. Most of the people in Kosovo are Albanian and have very little contact with the two minorities who make up the population of Plemetina. “We focus mostly on minority educational projects,” says Danica. “The Serbs and Roma, being the minority, are 65 percent unemployed and isolated from the rest of the area.”

Danica works with Balkan Sunflowers to operate the preschool that 70 children attend daily as well as to run a homework center and other youth activities. “Our main goal in the village is to assist and encourage the Roma kids to continue their education. They have a lot of difficulty because the schools are not taught in their native tongue, Romanis, and education is not an important part of their culture.”

Danica, a Global Studies major, became interested in the situation in Kosovo (continued on page 10)

Alumna named 27th Assembly District Woman of the Year

Assemblymember John Laird has named Judy Darnell ('06 IS) as Woman of the Year for the 27th Assembly District. As state advocacy director of the United Way Covering California’s Children program, Judy has collaborated with 18 United Way organizations and other partners throughout the state to inform decision makers in Sacramento of the pressing need to provide health insurance for all children in California.

Judy Darnell works tirelessly to advocate for health care insurance covering all of California’s children.

Judy accepted the award at a ceremony on March 5 at the California State Capitol.

The success of Judy’s advocacy work has helped make the expansion of children’s coverage a top priority of health care reform proposals with both the governor and the state Legislature this year. 
It's a great feeling to get involved

As the Alumni Association's event committee continues to plan the upcoming Pioneer Reunion (classes of 1996-2000), I can't help but think about how far CSUMB has come. Most importantly, as we hear from more and more alums, we are reminded of how far our CSUMB graduates have come, truly making a difference, not only in the local community, but around the world!

Often times in my professional life, I have the opportunity to share with clients and colleagues the type of education I received at CSUMB and what it meant to be a "pioneer." People automatically have a sense of what being a member of the first graduating class of a university symbolizes, and it fills me with a great feeling of pride and a sense of accomplishment.

The Alumni Association is committed to reaching out to as many alums as we possibly can, and as a board we are working diligently to grow the organization and make it more dynamic every year. I urge you to contact the Alumni Office and find out how you can become more involved. Whether you're a local or live abroad, are interested in volunteering your time or making a monetary donation, there are a variety of ways you can still be true to your school!

Some ideas to help get you involved:

- Donate to the Alumni Book Drive benefiting the new Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library
- Volunteer your time at commencement or Grad Fest
- Sign-up to donate an item or service for next year’s Have a Heart fundraiser
- Apply to become a member of the board of directors
- Make a monetary pledge
- Join one of the Alumni Association's various committees
- Send us information for Otter Fodder (see page 8)
- Attend one of the Alumni Association-sponsored events
- Attend the Pioneer Reunion

Cheers!

Lisa Thomas (97 LS)
President, CSUMB Alumni Association

Here's how you can help the association

Would you like to have a say about what events the Alumni Association offers? Develop scholarship opportunities? Explore ways to give back to CSUMB? Reconnect with other alums? Serve on an event, finance, membership or scholarship committee?

If so, get involved! The association’s board of directors is seeking new board and committee members. As a board or committee member, you’ll have the opportunity to influence all these decisions.

The Alumni Association will host its annual mixer for Alumni Association members on Thursday, April 12 at the Grill at Ryan Ranch. Nominees for board and committee appointments will also be on hand to discuss their vision for the association’s future. Complimentary appetizers will be served with a no-host bar.

A board member term is a two-year commitment. If you’re not currently able to commit to that time frame, please consider joining one of the association’s committees. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu or call 831-582-GRAD (4723).

Here’s your chance to take part in our growing association! RSVP by April 5 to alumni@csumb.edu or call 582-4723.

Save the date!

Annual mixer for Alumni Association members

When: Thursday, April 12, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Grill at Ryan Ranch, 1 Harris Court, Monterey
Peddling wine, worldwide

Enrique "Kike" Morgan (’02 MIE) spends at least half his time traveling. "I know a lot of airports by heart," Kike says with a laugh. As the regional sales manager for the Americas with Constellation Wines, Kike oversees the company's interests in Mexico, the Caribbean and South America. Before that, he was responsible for Canada and Asia, and spent his time studying the wine markets in China, Japan and Korea.

"It's a cool opportunity to learn about different marketing styles. You have to understand who the consumer is and the difference in how wine is consumed in different markets," Kike explains. "For example, in some places, people only drink wine during dinner. In 'wine drinking countries' like Chile, Argentina and Brazil, it's more of a casual drink, not just for celebration. For more casual drinkers, we tailor the wine profile to be sweeter with a lower price point. Asia was all about sweet wines, and they were more interested in the health benefits."

Kike got into the wine business immediately after graduating from CSUMB. He started in sales at Gallo Winery, but left to pursue an opportunity with Constellation. "I liked the industry but wasn't into the sales aspect. I wanted to do international business because of my background and education."

Kike was born in Chile in a town called Casablanca, near Santiago. After his parents divorced, Kike's mother remarried an American who lived in Chile. In the early '90s, the family decided to relocate to the United States and wound up in Auburn, California. Kike's father and other relatives still live in Chile. Kike decided to come to CSUMB because his sister, Carolina Morgan (’99 ESSP), was part of the pioneer class. He majored in Management and International Entrepreneurship, now called Business Administration, and minored in Global Studies.

Kike credits Professor John Kim as a primary mentor. "John made a point to teach about international and cultural sensitivity—that what you see is not always what you get, but to approach problems with objectivity and try new things out and go for it. He's a great mentor and person to be with."

Indeed, Kike feels that the education he received at CSUMB really prepared him for the growing field of international business. "It goes to prove that you can go to Harvard or one of the big schools—I run into those people all the time—but it's not about that. It's about what you put forward; it's how you combine what you learn and apply it to your current situation."

Currently, Kike is working to bring wines made in New Zealand and Australia into the South American market. In January, he spent 10 days in Australia with a group of Brazilian wine distributors touring wineries. "I'm working to educate Brazilian customers about wines from around the world."

Kike's aggressive travel schedule makes finding personal time a challenge. "My idea of a good weekend is staying home to relax." Fortunately, Constellation encourages him to bring his family with him on trips. His girlfriend, CSUMB alum Christy Clark (’03 LS), joined him in Australia, and Kike occasionally squeezes in one of his favorite hobbies in some of the most beautiful locations around the world. "I was certified as a scuba diver at CSUMB, so whenever I'm in Australia and the Caribbean I go diving on the weekend."

Though he doesn't get much opportunity to rest, Kike is pleased about his choice of career. "[It] is the way of the future. There is only so much you can do internally. Exponential growth has to come from abroad. The way different markets interact with each other and how that is managed dictates the success of a lot of people."

Himself included. ♦

In front of the Sydney Opera House, Kike Morgan poses with his girlfriend, Christy Clark, as he takes a break during a recent business trip to Australia.

"It goes to prove that you can go to Harvard or one of the big schools—I run into those people all the time—but it's not about that. It's about what you put forward; it's how you combine what you learn and apply it to your current situation."

—Kike Morgan
President's Speakers Series invites intellectual curiosity

CSUMB inaugurated the President's Speakers Series during the spring semester to enhance the intellectual life of the campus and the community.

"Not long after she arrived on campus, President Harrison asked the faculty what she could do for them. They asked for something that would stimulate thought and discussion," said Renee Curry, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. The speakers series emerged as a way to address the faculty request, and to include the community.

Suggestions for speakers came from the faculty and staff. "We were looking for a variety of appeal, for people who came from various disciplines," said Curry. It came down to matching each speaker’s availability with the campus schedule. Three names emerged: Kwame Anthony Appiah from Princeton University, one of the world’s leading philosophers, who visited the campus in February as part of CSUMB’s Black History Month celebration, feminist Riane Eisler, who will talk on March 15 and former National Football League player Esera Tuaolo, who will speak on April 10.

Dr. Riane Eisler

Dr. Eisler, a local resident, is a social scientist, lawyer and social activist best known as author of the international bestseller The Chalice and The Blade: Our History, Our Future. It’s been hailed by Princeton anthropologist Ashley Montagu as "the most important book since Darwin’s Origin of Species" and by novelist Isabel Allende as "one of those magnificent key books that can transform us." This was the first book reporting the results of Dr. Eisler’s study of human cultures spanning 30,000 years, and has been translated into 22 languages, including Chinese, Russian, Korean, Hebrew, Arabic and Japanese.

Her newest book, The Real Wealth of Nations: Creating a Caring Economics, proposes a new approach to economics that gives visibility and value to the most essential human work: the work of caring for people and the planet.

Her topic will be "A Caring Revolution: Money, Power and Women."

Esera Tuaolo will talk about his new book, Alone in the Trenches: My Life as a Gay Man in the NFL.

During his nine years in professional football, the former defensive lineman for Carolina, Jacksonville, Minnesota, Green Bay and Atlanta flew under the league’s "gaydar."

After making a big play, he didn’t do a dance or celebrate — the last thing he wanted was his photo flashed across the television screen.

"You’d be fearful that somebody would ‘out’ you," Mr. Tuaolo told the Atlanta Constitution.

About the only thing in Mr. Tuaolo’s closet these days are his old uniforms. He came out in 2002.

The lectures will start at 7 p.m. in the World Theater. Both are free, and no tickets are required.

For disability accommodations, contact Yolanda Perez at 831-582-4189 or yolanda_perez@csumb.edu at least 10 working days before the event.

Save the date!

When:
Riane Eisler — March 15 at 7 p.m.
Esera Tuaolo — April 10 at 7 p.m.

Where:
World Theater

Admission:
Free

Your phone is about to ring

As a CSUMB alum, your phone is about to ring! We don’t really expect you to sit by the phone and wait, but do want you to know that CSUMB will be calling you in the beginning of May to discuss supporting the university. Last year, we had our most successful phone drive to date. We hope to surpass those numbers in 2007. Please keep in mind that it’s not how much you give that counts — but that you give. We hope you’ll listen to what the caller has to say, and make a gift to support CSUMB. Alumni like you help make a difference!

Esera Tuaolo

CSUMBalumni@org
Alum helps make online shopping safe and easy

Do you ever hesitate using your credit card to make purchases on the Internet? If you're like millions of Americans who shop online regularly, probably not. CSUMB alum Troy Ison (05 TMAC) is doing his part to keep you feeling comfortable and confident when you click that “Proceed to Checkout” button.

Troy works for a company called Cybersource that handles backend systems for credit card transactions over the Internet. As an operations analyst, Troy makes sure the network and servers are running properly and that the system’s integrity remains intact. He often works the graveyard shift, ensuring that your late night eBay habit can continue without any billing issues — at least as far as the payment technology goes. Unfortunately, he can’t do anything about that low-rated seller.

Troy knew this was the direction he wanted to head when he entered Gavilan College in Gilroy. After Gavilan, Troy transferred to San José State, but found that his classes didn’t offer enough “real” experiences. “When I was at San José State, the only networking classes they taught were theory-based, with no hands-on time.” He made the decision to transfer to CSUMB “because I was looking for an exciting way to learn.”

Troy majored in Telecommunications, Multimedia, and Applied Computing, where he made an effort to get everything he could out of his classes — and then some. “Some of my teachers took the time to work with me when I asked about topics that were more advanced than the subjects covered in class.”

Troy appreciated that his professors came from the technology field. “They were able to bring real world examples to the learning process. The networking and Linux teachers were very helpful in my succeeding at CSUMB.” Troy went even further by working as a student assistant in the ITC lab, which gave him additional opportunities to get hands-on experience working with Windows and Linux servers.

Troy also found a way to use his tech skills and give something back to the community. In 2004, he began working with the Monterey Rape Crisis Center as his service learning partner. Initially he came on to help them purchase new computers, but his role quickly grew. “I’ve been their IT person since then. The people there have become like a second family to me.”

Even now, Troy continues to come down from his home in Mountain View to work at the center once a month.

And even when he isn’t working, Troy is connected to the latest technology. “I’m someone who likes to play with electronic gadgets. I always like to keep on the cutting edge.” With his thirst for the newest technology and love of hands-on learning, Troy will no doubt continue to excel in the IT world. In the meantime, know that when you click “Add to cart,” Troy is looking out for you.

Troy Ison volunteers his skills to oversee the IT operation at the Monterey Rape Crisis Center.

"Some of my teachers took the time to work with me when I asked about topics that were more advanced than the subjects covered in class."

— Troy Ison
What you need to know about money  
Planning Your Financial Future — an educational seminar for CSUMB alumni

An ongoing survey on the Alumni Association website asks alums what type of seminars they would like the association to present. Many alums responded that they'd like to attend a seminar about money management and investments. Answering this need, Jeffrey S. Froshman, CFP®, CPA of Froshman Financial Investment Advisors, has developed an evening seminar for alums covering a wide range of financial topics, including money management, investing and retirement planning.

Here's an opportunity to learn about how to reduce personal debt and save more of what you earn. Learn about different investments, their risks and rewards, and how to allocate savings among different types of investments. You'll also learn how to prepare a plan to keep you on the right track to achieve financial freedom during your retirement years. Refreshments will be served, compliments of the Alumni Association.

Please RSVP by March 22 to Laura Chen at 831-582-3595 or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu. For more information visit the csumbalumni.org website.

This educational workshop is for informational purposes only. Securities & investment advisory services offered through Foothill Securities, Inc. Registered Broker/Dealer & Investment Advisor, Member NASD/SIPC.

CSUMB has a new provost

Dr. Kathryn Cruz-Uribe is CSUMB’s new provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. She assumed her new duties in January.

Coming to CSUMB from Northern Arizona University, Dr. Cruz-Uribe was dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences where she oversaw a program with more than 3,300 students.

Her bachelor’s and master’s degrees, as well as her Ph.D., are all in anthropology. As an anthropologist with many years of field work outside the United States, Dr. Cruz-Uribe says she was attracted to CSUMB due to its emphasis on global perspectives, diversity and multiculturalism.

Auction raises funds for student scholarships

Each year in February, the Alumni Association participates in the Have a Heart for Students Dinner and Auction. This year, 20 of the 46 auction marshals were alums, who played a critical role in the smooth flow of the event. Thanks to all these volunteers for supporting one of the largest fundraising events for student scholarships on campus.

The association solicited 82 items for the silent auction part of the event, raising $7,525 from their sale. An additional $1,100 was raised during the evening’s live auction, bringing the total to a record $8,625.

Overall, the popular event raised more than $79,000 for scholarships, making it the most successful event yet.
Construction of the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library, begun last fall, is on schedule with a planned completion date of September 2008. The pouring of concrete for walls and floors that is now under way will continue into June, when the structural core of the building will be complete. At press time, crews were fabricating forms and pouring concrete for the third floor. By the end of summer, the structure will start to look like a building, with much of the remaining work involving finishing the interior.

The new library viewed from the west side of the Chapman Science Academic Center.

**Conference helps alums and students plan for career success**

The first Professional Networking Career Conference was held at the University Center in February, sponsored by the Career Development Office and the Alumni Association. The event provided an opportunity for students and alumni to learn about various career paths, how to communicate effectively with potential employers and the chance to network with working professionals in the community.

More than 100 students and alumni attended the event with 15 alums serving on career panels. The panelists related their experiences about jobs in specific career fields and how students and alums can best pursue those opportunities. The career fields discussed included arts and media, business, education, health and science, public/social service, and technology.

As a result of the success of this year's conference, it will become an annual event.

On the education panel were (from left), Jennifer Martinez ('03 BUS), the moderator, Julio Cardona ('03 HCOM), Melissa Padilla ('00 SBS), Murry Schekman, principal of Watsonville High School and Jon Martinez ('01 LS).

---

Help Us Reach Our Goal!

Alumni Book Drive

For the Tanimura & Antle Family Memorial Library

--- 1,000 books

February 2007

147 books

Alumni Book Drive Progress

For more information: CSUMBalumni.org
**Otter Fodder**

**2006**

Melody May Rico (ESSP) is an administrative assistant at the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, a position that provides her the opportunity to learn more about the Monterey area. She also volunteers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Melody lives in Monterey.

Lori Trumbo (BUS) is a Realtor associate at Alain Pinel Realtors in Carmel and a Realtor with Clark Realty Corp. in Hawaii. She is a member of Pacific Grove Christian Church, where she's involved with a number of community projects. Lori lives with her husband Bill in Carmel.

Rebecca Hayley Wilner (LS) works for Bright Horizons Family Solutions in the Bay Area, a national child care center operator. Rebecca lives in Marina.

Andrea Bernott (HCOM) is self-employed as a consultant for companies in the San Francisco area, specializing in content management, business writing, drafting, editing and data entry. She also works as an artist for Stella Page Designs. Andrea lives in Marina.

**2005**

Fredrick “Marty” Houston (ESSP) works for Monterey County as a registered environmental health specialist II, and is registered with the California Department of Health Services. He lives in Seaside.

Paul Alexander (SBS) is a lecturer in SBS at CSUMB. He earned an M.A. in social sciences from the University of Chicago. Paul lives in Marina.

Sarah Street (IS) is a full-time student at Harvard Law School. She transferred to Harvard after finishing a year at the UC Hastings College of the Law. Sarah lives in Cambridge, Mass.

Sebastian Biagioni (GS) is corporate sales manager for the Fresno Grizzlies Baseball Team, a Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. He volunteers his time with Habitat for Humanity. Sebastian lives in Fresno.

**2004**

Jeff Olney (TAT) is a visual effects artist for CBS-TV's CSI. Miami, the most watched show in the world. Jeff says he makes bullets fly through the air in slow motion while his family watches it in California, his aunt watches it in Germany and his dad gets asked about it as he travels through South America. He's also involved with the Art Directors and Title Artists' Guild. Jeff and Kumi Maemura (TAT ’03), are getting married in July. Jeff lives in Manhattan Beach.

Jennifer Ellsworth (Tindall) (TMAC) is a geographic information and leasing systems specialist for the California Employment Development Department, where she was promoted three times within one year. Jenny lives in Sacramento.

**2003**

Jennifer Oholorogg (LS) is a manager in the Bay Area for Bright Horizons Family Solutions, a national child care center operator. She also volunteers for Bright Spaces, a foundation which sets up centers in inner cities for homeless children and their families. Jennifer lives in Salinas.

Dylan Hart (TAT) is director of post production for Film Garden Entertainment. He has just completed a series called The Endless Feast, which will be broadcast in HD on PBS affiliates nationwide. It’s Film Garden's first program created and broadcast in high-definition. Dylan also worked with a nonprofit, run by Kumi Maemura (03 TAT), to provide facilities and mentors to budding filmmakers. Many documentaries were produced by the nonprofit about homelessness, literacy, arts and music. Dylan lives in Los Angeles.
Chris Horangic (TAT) is a talent manager at FOX Television, where he is currently involved with production of *Hell's Kitchen* 3. His career goal is to be a film producer. Chris has also gained experience as a location coordinator, talent manager, casting associate and accountant working for Discovery Networks, CBS, NBC and smaller production companies. He lives in Burbank.

Kumi Maemura (TAT) is an associate producer for *Intervention* — a critically acclaimed, award-winning A&E documentary series where addicts confront their compulsions. She volunteered as project administrator for a nonprofit where she oversaw the production of 32 short documentaries produced by aspiring filmmakers. Kumi lives in Manhattan Beach.

**2000**

Caroline Mountford (TMAC) is webmaster for the Salinas Valley Memorial Healthcare System. The website she designed and built for the hospital has won a national award for excellence. She volunteers with Notre Dame High School, Shoreline Church and the Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital Foundation. Caroline lives in Salinas.

Roxanne Bisby Davis (MIE) is a project manager at Cisco Systems, Inc., where she is currently on maternity leave. With her husband, she runs a nonprofit basketball club for girls. Roxanne lives in Novato.

Kristen LaMantia (TAT) is a freelance background coordinator in the film industry. She has applied to the Assistant Directors Training Program, a two-year program of the Directors Guild of America. Kristen also recently cast the models for the New York Fashion Week segment of the ABC-TV show, *Ugly Betty*. She volunteers at the Film Alliance, AFI Film Festival and The Elton John AIDS Foundation. Kristen lives in Burbank.

**2001**

Jen Browne (TAT) is a bartender in The Tap Room at The Lodge in Pebble Beach, where she has worked for 20 years. She’s currently studying to take the test for the first level of the Master Sommelier program. As a volunteer, she was co-producer of the locally shot film *Where’s Marty?* The film, an effort of the Monterey County Film Commission to promote Monterey County, featured cameo appearances by George Lopez, Betty White, Tony Curtis and Ken Howard. She recruited four current TAT students to help with the project. Jen lives in Monterey.

Jessica Smiley (HCOM) is owner and director of West Coast Dance FX, a dance studio offering classes for children and adults. She earned an M.A. in communication studies at San José State and garnered an associate instructor position there, teaching public speaking. She later taught argumentation and debate at Evergreen Valley College. Jessica lives in Hollister.

**Let’s hear from YOU!**

Share news about your career, accomplishments and changes in your life with fellow alums through Alma Otter. Send information, along with your address, phone, degree(s) earned, major, graduation year and a current color photo. To submit information online, go to the Otter Fodder Submission Form under Otter Fodder on the csumbalumni.org website. By mail, send to Alma Otter, CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 97, Seaside, CA 93955. All Otter Fodder submissions are provided by the individuals profiled and printed as submitted.

**Save trees!**

Send us your e-mail address to receive paperless event invitations and news updates via e-mail instead of snail mail. It’s the green thing to do.
Kosovo while working on her capstone, a comparative analysis of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the South African Truth Commission. “I came up with a hybrid strategy to deal with war atrocities and genocide. Doing my capstone educated me on the area I now work in Kosovo, and the effects of war on the people I am now working with. It allowed me to understand the ways to deal with war trauma and some of the effects these traumas can have on a community.”

Though she had a strong background on the political aspects of the situation, Danica got a crash course on the day-to-day aspects of life in Kosovo when she arrived. “I didn’t know a single word (of any of the three primary languages) before I went, but in an emergency situation I learned quickly. Living with the family in the community really helped my language skills. I speak a little Romani and understand a lot and I also now speak Serbian — since Serbian is the language of instruction it is important I speak to the kids in Serbian, but I speak to many of the youth in Romani.”

Although Plemetino is located only three kilometers away from the region’s primary power plant, the village has intermittent water and electricity. Many houses have electric stoves and washing machines, but the people have adapted to life without modern conveniences — they cook their food over wood-burning stoves, wash their clothes by hand, and rely on outhouses rather than indoor plumbing. “The village is quite dirty. In addition to the pollution from the power plant, which turns the white snow brown within hours, garbage is a large problem,” says Danica. “Many people just throw their garbage on the ground as they walk down the streets, or off into a ditch or gutter, and at the end of the day, you can always smell the burning garbage from around the village.”

Plemetina was the site of a refugee camp created in 1999 by the United Nations Human Rights Commission to provide accommodations to displaced people belonging to Kosovo’s minorities. At its peak, the camp was home to 1,300 people, and many families lived there for years. In 2005, families began to leave the camp and find new homes in housing projects throughout Kosovo, but many difficulties remain.

“It is really an amazing phenomenon, the entire situation in Kosovo. Basically the people in the village have almost no opportunities, no freedom of movement, education, access to activities of any sort, or employment. The entire situation is difficult, the poverty and ethnic tensions making it worse.” Even eight years after the war ended, most Serbs and Roma feel unsafe outside their enclaves. Though technically Kosovo remains a province of Serbia, the area is still under the jurisdiction of the United Nations.

“We work there in order to improve their opportunities and allow the children to be children and have a chance to improve their future and the future of their village and the whole of Kosovo. Minority education and integration are an extremely important part of that,” Danica explains.

Danica came back to California (she is originally from Marin) for a few weeks in January before returning to Plemetina to continue her volunteer work. Over the next few months she hopes to launch a larger educational program and a multiethnic sports program. Danica played volleyball as a CSUMB student, which she says helped her stay focused. Now she hopes she can share her love of the sport with the kids there. “Hopefully we would have a mixed Serbian and Roma volleyball club. I see this program as a good way to begin interethnic dialogue between the minority youth.”

Danica isn’t sure how long she will stay in Kosovo doing this work — much of it depends on funding and the direction the program takes in the future. “Eventually I would like to go to graduate school, but for now I am getting a lot of experience and helping a lot of people. Yes, it is a challenge and difficult at times, but it is so amazing when the children call my name as I walk through town — their voices and smiles make it all worth it.”

To learn more about the situation in Kosovo, visit the United Nations Mission in Kosovo at unmikonline.org and Balkan Sunflowers at balkansunflowers.org. Danica welcomes e-mails at Plemetina@balkansunflowers.org.

---

Alma Otter
Editor

Don Porter
Contributing Writer

Liz MacDonald
Alumni Relations Assistant

Laura Chen (05 CHHS)
Alumni Relations Director

Stephanie Regevig

Alma Otter is published two times a year by CSUMB University Advancement. Content is based on information available at press time. Submissions are invited and encouraged. Please mail information to Alma Otter, CSUMB Alumni Association, 100 Campus Center, Bldg. 97, Seaside, CA 93955, send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu, or call 831-582-GRAD (4723).

For a summary of the Alumni Association’s financial report, see csumbalumni.org and click on Association Meetings under Membership.
Alumni happenings around the state

Sacramento

Become an advocate for CSUMB and the CSU. Join us for CSU’s Alumni Legislative Day on Monday, March 19, as CSU alumni leaders, campus representatives, donors and friends gather in Sacramento to meet with policymakers and their staff.

Legislative Day is a key opportunity for the CSU’s 23 campuses to come together in the state capital to collectively deliver the message that CSU provides the quality education, research and innovative programs that are indispensable to the future of California.

If you would like to be an advocate for CSUMB, please call 831-582-GRAD (4723).

The day will feature a morning briefing session for CSU alumni representatives, an address by Chancellor Charles B. Reed on the "State of the CSU" and each CSU campus will recognize their Advocate of the Year. Sara McClellan (98 LS) will be recognized by CSUMB for her ongoing support of higher education. The afternoon sessions will include visits to each campus’ local legislators at the capitol.

In addition to Legislative Day, the CSU Alumni Council is hosting a CSU alumni networking reception for all Sacramento area alumni. All attendees will receive complimentary appetizers and two drink tickets. It's a great opportunity to network with your fellow alums.

To reserve your space, RSVP by March 17 at alumni@csumb.edu. To learn more about the event, go to the csumbalumni.org website. Don’t miss it! ✨

San Diego

Join us for a night of baseball at PETCO Park when the San Diego Padres take on the Seattle Mariners. It’s Padres replica jersey promotional giveaway night!

The fun begins on Friday, June 8, with a tailgate party starting at 5 p.m. and running until game time at 7:05 p.m. The association has arranged for alumni and guest seats located in the Field Reserved area. Discounted ticket prices are:

- $28 for current CSUMB Alumni Association members
- $32 for guests

If you’ve already purchased tickets, enjoy the food and conversation at the tailgate party for only $10.

Tickets must be purchased by April 30 by going online at csumbalumni.org and clicking on Event Tickets, or call 831-582-3595. Note that all ticket purchases are non-refundable. See you at the game! ✨

Calling all volunteers!

Get involved with the Alumni Association and raise funds for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Last year, the association sold 107 memberships and raised almost $5,000 from sales at commencement. Volunteer responsibilities include selling alumni memberships and merchandise, light refreshments and snacks. Volunteers are needed, particularly for two upcoming events: Grad Fest on April 4 and commencement on May 19.

For more information, call 831-582-GRAD (4723) or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu.

An Otter flies the Twin Otter!

Jason Mansour (03 ESSP) is a pilot for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). He entered flight school in March 2005 and is now on full-time flight pilot status.

CSUMBAlumni.org

Jason Mansour at the controls of a DHC-6 — also known as the Twin Otter.
Upcoming events

March 15 President's Speakers Series — Riane Eisler, CSUMB
March 19 CSU Legislative Day and CSU alumni networking reception, Sacramento
March 27 Planning Your Financial Future seminar, CSUMB
April 4 Grad Fest — volunteers needed!
April 10 President's Speakers Series — Esera Tuaolo, CSUMB
April 12 Alumni Association member annual mixer, Monterey
May 19 11th annual commencement — volunteers needed!
June 8 San Diego Padre's game and tailgate party, San Diego
August 5 Oakland A's game and tailgate party, Oakland
Aug. 11 Winemakers' Celebration and CSUMB alumni pre-party, Monterey
Oct. 12-14 Homecoming/Pioneer Reunion weekend

Alumni tailgate party at A's game

Join us on Sunday, August 5 for our fourth alumni tailgate party at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland. Once again, we'll partner with Cal State East Bay's Alumni Association (formerly Cal State Hayward). The fun begins at 11 a.m., when hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, chips, cookies and soft drinks will be served. Chat with fellow alums before the Oakland As take on the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim at 1:05 p.m. Ticket prices are:

- $25 for current Alumni Association members
- $28 for guests

The seats will be in field level section 108. All tickets must be purchased by July 20. You may pay for tickets online at csumbalumni.org by clicking on Events Tickets. For more information, call 831-582-3595 or send an e-mail to alumni@csumb.edu. Note that all ticket purchases are non-refundable.

For the latest event information, go to CSUMBalumni.org

Again this year, CSUMB alumni can enjoy the fun of a tailgate party and the excitement of watching the A's take on the Angels.