Welcome!

So, This is the academic year 1999-2000. Welcome! Get ready for the CSUMB experience--unlike anything you’ve ever experienced before.

We are glad to have you: freshmen and sophomores who are beginning their excursion into higher education; juniors and seniors continuing the journey; re-entry students who found the way back, and students who are taking classes for personal fulfillment and career goals.

This semester CSUMB has 405 new and returning faculty and staff, who will take that walk with you on your learning path.

Whatever your story, we are delighted that you are joining us here at CSUMB! Again, welcome! Get out there and embrace the challenge of earning your education!

The 1998-1999 Otter Family welcomes you!
See the classifieds for information on how to purchase your copy of the 1998-1999 group photo.

CSUMB Welcomes Dr. Diane Cordero de Noriega, Interim Provost and Vice President

By Kechia Smith-Gran

One of the California’s rising stars in higher education will become CSUMB’s Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs August 30, 1999. Dr. Diane Cordero de Noriega is taking a leave of absence from her post as Dean of the College of Education at California State University, Sacramento in order to take the position.

"Diane Cordero de Noriega has been an absolutely superb dean. She has provided strong leadership to the College of Education and in preparing teachers throughout the Capital Region," said CSU Sacramento’s President Donald R. Gerth. CSUMB’s unique academic programs and cutting edge curriculum require the new Provost along with the faculty and deans to blaze a new path for education rather than copy what other schools have done. As the Interim Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Cordero de Noriega will lead all aspects of CSUMB’s academic program. She will also assist the President in the overall management, external affairs, and fund-raising activities of the campus.

Dr. Cordero de Noriega said in a recent interview, "What really attracted me to CSUMB are the commitments in the Vision Statement, including a commitment to diversity, distance learning, technology, and Service Learning. I’m looking forward to being a part of the development of this young and dynamic campus."

CSUMB has been offering classes to students since 1995 and is the first university in the nation to be developed on a converted military base. As the 21st campus in the California State University system, CSUMB offers students the choice between 15 graduate and undergraduate interdisciplinary degree programs which prepare CSUMB graduates for the professional, civic, and personal challenges that they will face in the next century.

Dr. Cordero de Noriega replaces Dr. Dell Felder who served as CSUMB's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs since 1996. Dr. Felder left CSUMB August 15, 1999 to take a leadership position with the Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates.

Prior to working for CSUS, Dr. Cordero de Noriega worked in K-12 public schools and community colleges as a teacher and administrator. In her 30 year career as an educator, Dr. Cordero de Noriega has worked principally in migrant and bilingual programs.

“What really attracted me to CSUMB are the commitments in the Vision Statement...”

-Dr. Cordero de Noriega
In Memoriam

Leslie M. Matlack

By Mary Patyten

CSUMB and the world lost one of its gems this summer with the passing of 24-year-old Leslie M. Matlack, senior ESSP student and one of two pioneering ESSP Peer Advisors. Leslie died as a result of cardiac arrest during an asthma attack on July 22 in San Francisco.

Leslie was awarded a year-long 'Weed Warrior' Internship last May, to work with the Watershed Institute and the Bureau of Land Management implementing non-native weed management strategies in the Fort Ord backcountry. The work had inspired her capstone project, "Italian Thistle Management on Fort Ord."

At 5 p.m. on July 22nd, after attending a staff development meeting with park rangers at Golden Gate Park, Leslie and her fellow Weed Warrior interns decided to hike up one of the park's beautiful trails. Half a mile from the trailhead, Leslie suffered a severe asthma attack and used her inhaler. After continued trouble breathing, her companions used a cell phone to call emergency 911. Though her friends administered CPR, Leslie was not breathing and had no pulse when the ambulance arrived.

"Everyone in ESSP and the Watershed Institute feels a tremendous sense of loss, because Leslie has been such a special member of the ESSP family," said past ESSP director William Head. "We will all miss her can-do attitude and quiet humor. The enormous grief felt by Leslie's many close friends at CSUMB is a tribute to her warm personality and kind spirit."

Leslie played a key role in the development and success of ESSP's Peer Advising Program, which provided the genesis for the Peer Advising Program soon to be instituted throughout the Institute for Science, Technology, and Information Resources. She also contributed to the campus community as a lead student assistant for the ESSP Institute, and worked with the Watershed Institute's Return of the Natives program.

Leslie was buried in her hometown of Lompoc on July 29. She leaves behind her mother Leanne, father Dean, and brother Timothy. ESSP is arranging an on-campus memorial service for Leslie, tentatively scheduled for a few weeks after fall semester begins. Her parents will attend to accept her posthumously-awarded degree in Earth Systems Science and Policy.

In lieu of flowers, friends may contribute to a fund to establish a native plant garden in Leslie's memory. Checks payable to the CSUMB Foundation (write on the check "for the Leslie Matlack Memorial Fund") may be brought to University Advancement, Building 86A, or sent to CSUMB, University Advancement, 100 Campus Center, Seaside CA. 93933.

Meet the Otter Realm's new Editor-In-Chief Kechia Smith-Gran

I am a 32 year-old, Louisiana transplant, who lives in Seaside with my husband and step-dog. I am an HCOM major, a re-entry student who now knows the value of higher education. This is my second semester at CSUMB, and I will graduate with a concentration in Journalism & Media Studies in Spring 2001.

Years ago, in a former life, I attended a community college, where I was a staff reporter then editor for the school newspaper. I then transferred to Louisiana State University-Shreveport, where I was a Communications-Journalism major, and also was a reporter with the student newspaper. Six years and a major relocation later, I discovered that CSUMB had a "vision statement" which was compatible with my idea of the future.

The first semester here was enlightening. The instructors were extremely generous with their time and knowledge, and students offered each other much needed support. Despite the bad press and negativity on campus, I would not choose to be anywhere else. There is great strength here for those who are willing to accept it, and I hope to avail myself of that strength during this semester as the Otter Realm Editor-in-Chief.

I have a clean slate at this point, and would like to keep it this clean when I vacate the position. I have no intention of being a "tool" for anyone, whether Administration or special interests. I do have every intention of creating an environment in which there can be an arena where we can engage in respectful dialogue, while delivering news to our audience. As an editor, I may not always agree with what is said, but I hope that I can always be objective, fair, and ethical.

The Staff of Otter Realm needs to hear from you: students, staff, faculty, community neighbors. We invite your comments and feedback either through FirstClass or letters to the editor.

Kechia Smith-Gran
Editor-in-chief, Fall 1999
STUDENT VOICE OFFICERS FOR 1999-2000

By Jason Sanchez

Our new Student Voice officers, with one of the youngest boards ever heard of, are ready to make this year a good one through their commitment to our students and their will to learn.

As a member of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Associated Students (AS) for CSU Monterey Bay, each officer fulfills his or her term for one full calendar year. Along with our 11 BOD members, who are elected at the end of each academic year, we now have two California State Student Association (CSSA) Representatives. They also serve for one year while representing the students of the entire CSU system and our university.

This year's BOD is filling some pretty large shoes, too. They are following a group of officers whose endless devotion has built Student Voice up to what it is today.

President Gerardo Salinas, a sophomore himself, is enthusiastic about this year's BOD, giving them credit for their drive and energy.

Student Voice works to represent student needs and the values that our university stands for. They contribute to student organizations including the Inter-Club Council (ICC), the clubs that the ICC represent, and the Events WorkGroup. They provide a process for funding student events, allocate over $200,000 in student fees, hear grievances, are involved statewide in the California State Student Association, and help students to get involved on our campus.

Student Voice, the Associated Students, has become known on our campus and in the state of California as a dedicated and determined student organization that continues to grow.

The Associated Students have Board of Director (BOD) meetings that are held on every other Monday at 12:00 pm.

Meetings are always advertised at least one week in advance and students are encouraged to attend. Look for advertisements in the Student Voice folder on First Class, our school's e-mail provider, and around campus including the glass cases in front of Building 14.

By Connie O'Dea

The Association for Students with disABILITIES (AFSD) is supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International “WALK TO CURE DIABETES.”

The “WALK TO CURE DIABETES,” a two-mile walk, will take place Sunday, September 26, 1999 starting at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove. Pre-Registration is at 8:00 a.m. and the official start time is 9:00 a.m. Sugar Ray Leonard and Leeza Gibbons are the Co-Chairs of the “Walk to Cure Diabetes.” Proceeds are going for Juvenile diabetes research. If you collect pledges and participate in the walk, you will receive a T-shirt. If you turn in at least $500.00 on Walk Day, you can enter a drawing to win a 7-night trip for two from San Francisco to Acapulco, and the two highest fundraising family teams will win a KitchenAid dishwasher valued up to $999.00.

The Team Captain for AFSD is Connie O'Dea, President of the Association, and she is undertaking a fundraising challenge. Connie has a goal of making $1,500 on the CSUMB campus, through donations to be given to the “Walk to Cure Diabetes.” When a donation is made, the donor is given a paper sneaker cutout. The donor’s name is written on the cutout and it will then grace the walls of the hallway of the Dining Commons. This is a way for the CSUMB community to support a worthwhile cause and promote goodwill within the local area as well.

On this campus, AFSD continues the push to make CSUMB 100% accessible for disabilities and in full compliance of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Parking and building access is a major concern at CSUMB. Connie O'Dea, the AFSD president is a member of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee, and continually advocates for Blue zone ADA parking on campus, and safe paths of travel for wheelchair and scooter users.

The chief goal of AFSD is to increase awareness about the civil rights of persons with a disability or a life challenge. The Association of Students with disABILITIES wants all students, faculty, and staff to have a barrier-free environment at CSUMB. An example of changes made at CSUMB: In 1997,
Several changes struck me at once: fewer bicycles, more cars; bright western clothing, no Mao jackets; nonchalant attitude around tourists, curious crowds; stark and drab buildings, lawns and flowers. Affluence and optimism were in the air along with huge cranes and massive building projects, everywhere. But, this time I saw some homeless men on the streets and high unemployment figures were openly printed in the press. My biggest disappointment was that Tiananmen Square was sealed off from the public. The official line was that vast preparations were ongoing for the October 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. It was, however, the tenth anniversary of the Tiananmen uprising, too. Another factor may have been the NATO (U.S.) bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Serbia.

My first trip to China in 1983 was as a newly widowed woman alone. I spent six weeks traveling from Hong Kong to China and finally two weeks in Japan. I joined different groups of tourists and a couple of my friends spent part of the trip with me, as well. China was very new to western travelers then and wherever we went people would appear suddenly speaking a few words of English and smiling, showing off their children. I wasn't sure if we were the main attraction or they were! I met an American-Chinese woman whose father was a physician to Chiang Kai-Shek and fled with him to Taiwan during the revolution. She was visiting some relatives in southern China and we met clandestinely with women who objected to the "one child" policy. Also, I was pursued by two Chinese soccer players who were trying to make contact with sympathetic Americans who might be available during the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics to help them defect. Accommodations were minimal, electricity and hot water were only available certain hours. Beijing and Canton had the best hotels other cities were very limited. In Shanghai, I had the good fortune to join a group of mental health professionals from the U.S. who had arranged for access to rural communal farms and a city commune which had its own hospitals. We were entertained by children who sang and danced, and one very gifted pianist played for us. I was impressed by the strong sense of community and the patience people showed in stressing the big picture and the long term. One young man spoke to me in the Forbidden City, he said very few Chinese people had visited any of the famous sites in China and he was privileged to be there that day. He said, "at one time China was the center of the universe", I responded that I thought it would be again someday. I found everything fascinating, especially the people.

My return to China this past May/June found that amazing changes had taken place. In sixteen years I had changed, too. This trip was a gift to myself for graduating from CSUMB. I traveled with historian Sandy Lydon and 30 other adventurers. We spent a semester at Cabrillo College studying the places we would visit on our three-week trek. There were several books and articles of required reading and lectures with guest speakers, even a Chinese language teacher. So, we were much better prepared than I was in 1983. Yet, I was constantly surprised when we actually got there. We landed just to change planes in Hong Kong, then on to Beijing. After a couple of jammed-packed days of touring all the known attractions, we were taken to the less well-known Underground City, which was built in the 1950's. While we were digging bomb shelters from the threat of nuclear war, the Chinese constructed an underground to shelter 60,000 people. Today it is a tourist shopping center! We flew to Xian next and rode a bus for six hours to see the Terracotta Soldiers. The dig is much larger than when I was here before and the souvenir-sellers are tenfold the mend and others in the group were sick with less severe respiratory distress. The timing was fortunate, however because we were spending the next 5 days on a cruise down the Yangzi river. The Victorian riverboat was very comfortable and the young Activities Director from Michigan and the entire staff was friendly and accommodating. The river was brown and the outside air was hot and humid. Visibility was obscured by pollution most of the time. Each of the next several days the optional land/sampan excursions took us to tributaries whose blue-green waters were more inviting. Dramatic scenery enveloped our small boats piloted by skilled men who had spent their lives on this part of the river. We rode small rapids as huge mountains rose straight up on both sides. Back on the main river traffic increased with working barges and other cruise vessels. The importance of this river became clearer and the impact of the Three Gorges Dam on the future of this country is imprinted on my mind. China's future is dependent on electric power. Even the admitted corruption and errors in this vast undertaking "the big dig" doesn't change the reality of its inevitability. Over a million people are being relocated from land they have farmed for centuries, they are forced to sacrifice for the "good" of the state. The government emphasizes the need to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who die in massive floods almost every year, as well as the need to secure a dependable food supply. Our last city visit in China was Shanghai. Through the rain and bus ride from the airport to our lovely hotel I felt like I had arrived home. This is a beautiful, well-run city. Taxies are everywhere (private car licenses cost from $25,000 U.S.) and roads and bridges are very well maintained and traffic is orderly. The new museums and opera house, are located downtown. They are architecturally striking and the art collections are impressive (second to Taipei).
Otter Days

By Robert Alexander

Otter Days is a retreat for incoming freshmen and sophomore students held the weekend before their first day of classes. This retreat began with the first incoming student class in 1995, and at this time, over 1,000 CSUMB students have participated. The program, free of charge and open to all incoming freshmen and sophomores, is the only known one of its kind in this country. Other universities have orientation programs, some of them weeklong backpacking trips, but CSUMB is the only school that offers anything of this magnitude to its incoming students.

One of the reasons Otter Days is possible is because of the unique relationship established with the United States Army. CSUMB's Outdoor Recreation program, which coordinates the Otter Days event, is in collaboration with the US Army's Morale, Welfare and Recreation department at the nearby Presidio of Monterey. Who else are you going to call for a couple hundred sleeping bags?

Based on the experiential education principle of 'learning by doing' students participate in this multi-day program at a camp in the coastal mountains of Big Sur. Professional facilitators provide learning opportunities to students to develop skills for problem solving, teamwork, communication and leadership, valuing diversity, service and stress management. The facilitators also offer an introduction to the cultural and natural history of the Monterey area.

The program's curriculum is designed to deliberately foster the development of an inclusive community. Based on the value that diversity is as necessary for a healthy social system as it is for a healthy ecosystem, Otter Days accelerates the process of forming relationships and building community. Many students claim they met their best friend at Otter Days. Other students who did not attend, have expressed regret, stating that they had never felt so alone as when they first started college.

The Otter Days program acknowledges that incoming freshmen may be going through one of the most challenging and change-filled periods of their life. In the Otter Days program, these students are supported by professional experiential educators and returning student mentors who act as guides. They learn how to navigate their way through the labyrinth of challenges that lay ahead of them, and how to engineer a successful transition of this next life phase.

In the next issue of the Otter Realm, James Green, a student reporter, shares his coverage of Otter Days '99.
New Construction on the CSUMB Campus

The University Center, formerly known as the Pomeroy, has been remodeled and is gorgeous!

This building is barely recognizable from the early days of CSUMB according to staff and faculty who were around "back in the day."

The University Center, Building 29, is located on Sixth Street, next to the World Theatre and across the street from Building 44. There are spaces available for students to meet, perhaps for study groups.

The newest residence hall has been completed! Incoming students have been in residence since the weekend of August 14th. All 74 rooms will be filled with freshmen. Students may be housed two or three per room. Kevin Saunders gave a breakdown of the room assignments in 206: "There are seven-triples and 64-doubles and three single RA rooms." Due to the "tremendous need" for on-campus housing, there are no auxiliary Student Service offices located at Divarty Hall" according to Cindy Derrico, Director of Residential Life.

Divarty Hall, an abbreviation for "Division Artillery", was named for the group who originally inhabited the structure when Ft. Ord was still an active military installation. Barry Swenson Builders is the contractor for this project, Building 206, which sits alongside Administration Bldg 2, off of First Street.
Club Sports and You at CSUMB!

By Ted Benbow

Students at CSUMB have a unique opportunity to create new organizations for the purpose of sponsoring club activities. The club system on campus includes a number of organizations whose members participate in activities centered around sport and/or recreation. There is a wide variety of established sport and recreation clubs to choose from, and the number is growing rapidly. The following is a list of sport and recreation clubs currently recognized at CSUMB; if you don't see a club for your favorite sport or recreational activity, maybe you should start a new club!

■ Baseball Club
■ Board Riders Coalition
■ Climbing Club
■ Dance Team
■ Disc Golf Club
■ Fencing Club
■ International Martial Arts and Sciences
■ Ollin- Folklorico Mexicano
■ Rugby Club
■ Sailing Club
■ "Wet and Soggies" Dive Club
■ Wrestling Club

For more information about how to join an existing club, or for instructions on starting a new student organization, contact the Student Activities and Career Development Office (bldg.44) at 582-3845, and let the games begin!

CSUMB’s Varsity Teams Gear Up For the Fall Season

By Ted Benbow

This fall, outstanding “otter” athletes will once again hit the fields, courts, and trails, with varsity teams in Men’s Soccer, Women’s Volleyball, and Women’s and Men’s Cross Country, respectively. In addition, a Women’s Soccer team will join the ranks of club sports at CSUMB. According to bobbi bonace, head of athletics at CSUMB, “the Women’s Soccer team will function as a club primarily in terms of [the lack of] eligibility requirements. All other factors, such as a schedule of intercollegiate competition, will mirror as closely as possible the structure and routine of a regular varsity sport,” bonace said.

The following is a list of contact information for anyone interested in joining one of these teams as a ‘walk-on’ athlete, as well as dates and times of the first currently scheduled competitions for these sports. Complete schedules will be printed in the next edition of the Otter Realm.

Men’s and Women’s Soccer:
Head Coach: Hector Uribe
Contact Number: 582-4536

First Competitions:
■ Men- Away @ Dominican College (scrimmage), Saturday 8/28, noon
■ Home @ CSUMB vs. Chico, Monday 8/30, 3 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball:
Head Coach: Sean Madden
Contact Number(s): 582-4305, 582-3945

First Competitions:
■ Away @ San Jose Christian, Tuesday 9/7, 7 p.m.
■ Home @ CSUMB, Otter Classic Volleyball Tournament, Friday and Saturday 9/10 - 9/11, 8 a.m. (first game) until 7:30 p.m. (last game)

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country:
Head Coach: Yi Mao
Contact Number: 582-3309

First Competitions:
■ Away @ University of San Francisco Invitational (4 miles), Saturday 9/11, 9 a.m.
■ Away @ Pacific Union College Invitational (5 km./8 km.), Sunday 9/26, 3 p.m.
■ Home @ CSUMB Otter Invitational (4.3 mile fixed course), Sunday 10/3, 1 p.m.
$ ATTENTION ATHLETES $ 

Would you like to give something back to your sport and make great money at the same time? Peninsula Sports Management is now hiring officials for all Fall sports at the high school level. Training is provided, the pay is excellent, the hours are perfect for students, and the experience is priceless (looks great on a resume, too!). If you are interested in finding out more about this fantastic opportunity, please call Mark Risley at 375-3301.

HELP WANTED

The Otter Realm is looking for staff members for the fall 1999 semester. Positions available include reporters, photographers, editors, sales. Contact the Otter Realm office at 582-4347 or 582-4066. Be part of the action!

MISC.

Private Piano Instruction, from absolute beginners to advanced coaching. CSUMB Piano Instructor Lyn Bronson, graduate of Yale University School of Music. Call 624-7971.

AUTO

Shiny, clean, dependable care for sale. Honda Accord LX, 1992, 130k, great condition, absolutely babied. $6500. 899-3552.

On Sale now! 1999 CSUMB Group Picture. Call Marge in University Advancement to order your copy by the deadline of Sept. 10, 1999. Two sizes available. $7.00 and $13.00. 582-3368.

Deadline for the Otter Realm Fall 1999

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CLASSIFIED ADS

The Otter Realm accepts classified advertising for students, staff, faculty, and community under these guidelines:

No 'personal' ads will be accepted. Ads must be appropriate and require complete name and mailing address (not for publication.)

Classified ads will run in two consecutive issues.

Profit-making organizations and businesses will pay the 'Commercial' rate. Members of the CSUMB community and non-profit agencies with IRS approved tax-exempt status, including educational institutions or organizations, will pay the 'Non-commercial' rate. Payment is due upon placement of ad.

Categories for Classified Advertising are, but not limited to the following:

- Autos/Motorcycles
- Child Care
- Furniture
- Help Wanted
- Housing Rentals
- Lost & Found
- Misc.
- Pets
- Ride Shares
- Roommates Wanted
- Text Books
- Yard Sales

The Otter Realm does not assume responsibility for the condition of the item(s) sold. We urge you to investigate living situations, ride shares and child care offerings.

Editor-in-Chief-Kechia Smith-Gran
Reporters: Mary Patyten, Ted Benbow, James Green
Contributing Writers: Robert Alexander, Sondra Rees, Ken Burton, Connie O'Dea, Jason Sanchez,

Photographers: Kechia Smith-Gran, Sondra Rees, Holly White
Graphic Production & Illustration-Judith Swartz Illustration and Design
Advisor-Holly White