



California State  
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*Education budget cuts are hot topic at news conference.*

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## CSUMB wins 'Best Place to Work' award

CSUMB was awarded a "Best Place to Work" award from the Monterey County Business Council during the first annual "Best Places to Work" luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Monterey on April 25.



Employers surveyed for the award were recognized in two categories — those with up to 75 employees and those with more than 75. Only three organizations in each category won a top award as an outstanding employer.

President Dianne Harrison accepted the award for CSUMB. Also attending were members of the senior leadership team, University Human Resources and union leadership.

"On behalf of all our employees, I would like to thank the Monterey County Business Council for initiating these awards to recognize great places to work in our county," said President Dianne Harrison. "At CSUMB, we are proud of all of our employee benefits and our programs for faculty and staff development. While we are always seeking to improve our employee salaries and benefits, we appreciate the recognition by the MCBC of what we have in place."

Personal Dynamics Consulting of Florida designed the 40-question survey used to identify the "Best Places to Work" for the MCBC. They analyzed data and calculated turnover rates, growth trends, number of promotions and the value of benefit packages for each employer. A total of 37 measurements were analyzed to determine the winners. Each employer received a personalized report detailing how they compared with other employers in the county and suggestions for improving the work environment.

"At CSUMB, we are proud of all of our employee benefits and our programs for faculty and staff development. While we are always seeking to improve our employee salaries and benefits, we appreciate the recognition by the MCBC of what we have in place."

— President Dianne Harrison

Compared with the other employers surveyed, CSUMB was better in turnover rate, growth, employee development, days off after one year of employment, an employee assistance program, paid maternity/paternity/adoption leave, paid dental, vision, life and long-term disability programs and a fully funded retirement program.

The Monterey County Business Council includes professionals from business, government and education working together on countywide issues. Founded in 1995, the non-profit corporation seeks to promote the concept of private-public partnerships by bringing business experience and techniques to the public arena.

For more information about the MCBC and the award, go to [mcbc.mcbusiness.org](http://mcbc.mcbusiness.org).

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- Dr. Seth Pollack wins Fulbright award
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- First students chosen as McNair Scholars



# 2008 commencement set for May 17



Almost 800 students have filed for graduation this year.

## To attend

**When:** Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. Guests should arrive at the stadium by 8:30 a.m. and be seated by 9:14 a.m. Grads should arrive at the soccer field by 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** Freeman Stadium, off Second Avenue

**Length:** Approximately two hours, 30 minutes

**Admittance:** Tickets not required

**Parking:** Free, guests are encouraged to car-pool and to arrive on campus by 8 a.m. Traffic controllers will provide parking directions.

**Disability accommodations:** Sign language interpreting provided. Seating for people with disabilities provided without reservations. For other accommodations, call 831-582-4141.

**More info:** Email [grad@csumb.edu](mailto:grad@csumb.edu) or visit [csumb.edu/grad](http://csumb.edu/grad).

The university will hold its 12th commencement on May 17. The commencement ceremony occurs only once each academic year, in May. Students who have officially applied to graduate are eligible and invited to participate.

The Honorable Leon Panetta will be this year's keynote speaker. At press time, 792 students had filed for graduation, with about 8,000 family members and other guests expected to attend. More information and a live streaming video telecast of the event will be available at [csumb.edu/grad](http://csumb.edu/grad).

## Keynote speaker: Leon Panetta

Keynote speaker for the 2008 commencement ceremony is Leon Panetta, who represented the Central Coast in the U.S. Congress for 16 years from 1976 to 1992. During most of that time he also served as a member of the House Agriculture Committee and chairman of the Nutrition and Domestic Marketing Subcommittee. This was followed by appointment as director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget from 1993 to 1995. He served as chief of staff to President Bill Clinton from 1995 to 1997.



Leon Panetta is this year's commencement speaker.

Currently, Panetta co-directs the Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy, with a particular focus on inspiring young men and women to lives of leadership and public service.



# Leaders continue to stress budget stakes



President Dianne Harrison addresses members of the media at the April 14 news conference at Cabrillo College. Behind the podium, from left, are Dr. Brian King, president/superintendent of Cabrillo College; Dr. George Blumenthal, chancellor of UC Santa Cruz; and Michael Watkins, superintendent of Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

“We’re a new institution trying to grow and have an impact, and now we’re being told we can’t,” President Dianne Harrison told reporters at a news conference April 14 at Cabrillo College in Aptos, referring to the governor’s proposed budget cuts. She added that the CSU system produces many of the state’s teachers, business people, nurses and scientists. The budget cuts could also mean that colleges won’t be able to offer as many classes, lengthening the time current students will take to graduate. “By admitting fewer students, we’ll be graduating fewer students,” Harrison said. She was joined by Cabrillo College President Brian King, UC-Santa Cruz Chancellor George Blumenthal and Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Education Michael Watkins.

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## Campus planning invites campus input

On March 28, the Campus Development & Operations Division rolled out two programs intended to inform and involve faculty, staff and students in the process and progress affecting campus development. The open house presentation, held in the University Center, focused on the campus master plan and the capital planning process. Mehul Mody, assistant director of space management and campus planning, discussed the current master plan, the environmental impact report associated with the proposed updated plan and the process for obtaining state capital funds for new buildings.

Campus Development and Operations offers a monthly, Web-based newsletter at [cdo.csumb.edu](http://cdo.csumb.edu). It provides information on facility operations, safety, planning, design and construction activities. Items such as power outages, road closures and significant events will be reported. Also featured are opportunities to be involved in the development process and general information regarding the division and its activities on campus.



Mehul Mody, assistant director of space planning and campus planning, discusses the master plan on March 28.

# First students chosen for McNair Scholars program

The first group of 25 CSUMB students have been accepted into the McNair Scholars Program. The program prepares undergraduate students for future doctoral study through faculty mentorship, undergraduate research, academic support, workshops and graduate school readiness.

CSUMB's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Kathryn Cruz-Urbe said, "The McNair Scholars Program is a wonderful addition to the CSUMB campus. It reflects our commitment to high-quality education, hands-on learning experiences, integration across the disciplines and serving a diverse student population."

Dr. Marsha Moroh, dean of the College of Science, Media Arts and Technology, said "The McNair Scholars personify the CSUMB Vision. They were chosen for their passion and commitment to their field of study, and for their desire to further their education."

Dr. Renee Curry, Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, says "Faculty from across the disciplines have already begun working diligently with these scholars: assisting with the applications, reading and responding to numerous revisions, and discussing the knowledge, skills, and commitment required to attain a Ph.D."

The McNair Scholars Program is funded by the Department of Education and is named after Ronald E. McNair, a physicist and NASA astronaut who served on the Challenger Space Shuttle. For information more information, please contact Jessica Brown, McNair Scholars Program Manager via FirstClass or 582-4266.

## Have a Heart auction raises \$90,000

The Have a Heart for Students dinner and auction held Feb. 29 raised \$90,000 for scholarships. Approximately 300 guests attended the dinner, held in the University Center ballroom. Dozens of faculty and staff volunteers took on the roles of waiters and wine stewards — with their tips donated as well. Community members Sue Antle and Leslie Taylor co-chaired the event. Next year's dinner and auction will be held on Feb. 20.

## 2008 McNair Scholars Faculty Mentors

Susan Alexander — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Sharon Anderson — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Rebecca Bales — Social and Behavioral Sciences  
Rina Benmayor — Human Communication  
Corey Garza — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Juan Gutierrez — Social and Behavioral Sciences  
William Head — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Henrik Kibak — Biology  
James Lindholm — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Marc Los Huertos — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Steven Moore — Biology  
Kathryn Poethig — Global Studies  
Douglas Smith — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Ernest Stromberg — Human Communication  
Umi Vaughan — Human Communication  
Maria Villaseñor — Human Communication  
Fred Watson — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Suzanne Worcester — Earth Systems Science & Policy  
Maria Zielina — World Languages & Cultures /  
Social and Behavioral Sciences

## 'Clean Up Day' at CSUMB

Trash was the target on April 19 when 28 volunteers from the university joined forces with Monterey County's "Clean Up Day." They gathered 30 bags of litter along campus roadways, on the main quad and around Freeman Stadium. The volunteers later enjoyed a barbeque to acknowledge their hard work. As part of the same clean-up effort, Facilities Services and Operations filled three 30-yard containers with illegally dumped trash, such as the abandoned sofa below. For more info go to [www.keepmontereycountyclean.org](http://www.keepmontereycountyclean.org)





# Meet Jennifer Bliss

Joining the university's Grants & Contracts Dept. in 2005, Jennifer Bliss has taken on many responsibilities. As the technology coordinator in Grants & Contracts, she's the university's system administrator for InfoEd — an electronic research administration system supporting all private and public externally funded programs. These include research, scholarship, creative activity and student success. She also



coordinates administrative activities for human subject research, CSU student and faculty research competitions and the CSUMB Foundation's Incentive Scholars Program.

Before working at the university, Jen had heard positive things about Cindy Lopez, director of grants & contracts, and thought she might enhance her skills working at CSUMB while finishing her master's degree.

Being an employee in Grants & Contracts opened her eyes.

"Was I surprised! I've learned more than I ever expected. With electronic research administration (eRA) mandated by the federal government, the grants administration profession is undergoing a monumental transformation," Bliss said. "I'm thrilled to be working somewhere that is actually ahead of the curve. InfoEd is the leading provider of eRA systems, we have it, and I'm the system administrator for CSUMB. It's a responsibility I enjoy and appreciate every day."

She most appreciates working with faculty who undertake applied research in support of student learning. "Teaching and learning is so enhanced by these projects," Bliss said. "I admire the faculty who are doing it and am proud to be a part of supporting student success."

She serves on the board of directors of the Sustainable Base Reuse Institute, a 501(c)3 nonprofit educating and advocating sustainable redevelopment of former military bases. This year, she is leading a comprehensive fundraising program for the organization, encompassing public relations, communications and solicitation.

"I'm using sales techniques I learned while working in high-tech networking with small business development strategies," Bliss said. "It's a new and exciting opportunity that I'm really enjoying. I also volunteer with Marina Youth Arts, a nonprofit promoting youth performance and fine arts."

At home with her husband, Michael, a landscape architect, she enjoys playing with their 4-year-old son, Ben. "He's the apple of my eye," she said. As an outdoors-oriented family, they enjoy hiking and, gardening together. And she's also an athlete.

"Until I started graduate school in 2003, I played soccer almost continuously since age 6," Bliss said. "Now that I have my master's degree, I'm looking forward to joining an adult league."

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## President's Medal nominations due May 9

The annual President's Medal is awarded each year to university employees who have made extraordinary contributions in support of CSUMB's mission. Last year's recipients were Dr. Bill Head (faculty), Reyola Carlisle (staff) and Cindy Lopez (administrator).

For the first time last year, President Harrison expanded the award, from recognizing one employee, to honor an individual from each of three categories — staff, faculty and administrator. The change recognizes how the dedication of our employees contributes to the success of students at CSUMB.

The nomination process was announced in April with a May 7 deadline for nominations. Awardees will be selected in May. Any student, faculty or staff member or administrator can submit nominations.

The Provost's Office is coordinating the selection process for the faculty award. University Human Resources is coordinating the staff and administrator selection process.

This year, the President's Medal awards ceremony will coincide with the President's Welcome event scheduled for August 18 from 3 - 5 p.m. in the World Theater. The merging of these two important events will enable more faculty and staff members to collectively honor this year's nominees and winners and heighten our sense of celebration and community as we begin a new academic year. Mark your calendar for this important event and take the time to recognize colleagues who have given so much to CSUMB.

For staff/administrator submissions or questions, contact Gretchen Fuentes at 582-4333. For faculty submissions or questions, contact the Office of the Provost at 582-3680.





# Enjoy songs of the spirit at Heritage Music festival

Gospel, the church music that influenced artists from Sam Cooke and James Brown to Aretha Franklin and Mary J. Blige, is a significant part of American musical history.

This year's Heritage Music Festival at the World Theater on May 10 celebrates the music with a program called "The Evolution of Gospel Music," featuring multiple Grammy Award winner Edwin Hawkins.



Edwin Hawkins performs here May 10.

Hawkins is best known for composing the Recording Industry Association of America's Song of the Century, "Oh Happy Day." He wrote it in the late 1960s. Eventually, 7 million copies were sold, and he and the group that recorded it, the Northern California State Youth Choir — reborn as the "Edwin Hawkins Singers" — received their first Grammy Award in 1969. He went on to win three more.

At CSUMB, he will be joined by the university's Gospel Choir under the direction of Professor Paulette Gissendanner.

The concert is made possible by a grant from the Nathan Cummings Foundation as part of the university's African American Legacy Project.

**To attend**

**What:** Heritage Music Festival

**When:** 7 p.m., May 10

**Where:** World Theater

**Cost:** \$15

**Info:** 582-3009

## Seth Pollack wins prestigious Fulbright Scholar award

Dr. Seth Pollack, director of the Service Learning Institute, has been named a Fulbright Scholar and will work in South Africa.

The yearlong appointment will begin in July. Pollack will work with faculty members at two South African universities to design service learning courses.

"At the University of Western Cape, I will be affiliated with the College of Public Health, working on curriculum to address HIV/AIDS prevention," he said.

"At the University of Cape Town, I will be working on issues of community economic development, helping to build closer ties between the university and the townships."

In 1997 — three years after the end of apartheid — the South African government published "The Education White Paper: Program for the Transformation of Higher Education." The paper identified service learning as a key component in the post-apartheid government's efforts to connect with the formerly disadvantaged populations.

Since that time, the Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Foundation have sponsored efforts to develop service learning programs in South African universities.

"I'm very interested in the role of the university in social and economic transformation, especially from a social justice perspective," Pollack said.

"South African society is in a very dynamic place, trying to



Seth Pollack is off to South Africa as a Fulbright Scholar.

(continued on next page)



## New employees

**Brett Ainsworth**, Office Manager/Accommodations Assistant — Student Disability Resources

**Gladys Cabadas**, Academic Adviser — Academic Advising

**Seth Putnam**, Accompanist — Music and Performing Arts Dept.

**Robert Ramirez, Jr.**, Facilities Maintenance Mechanic — Facilities Services and Operations

**Florence Shirakawa**, Administrative Support Assistant II — Div. of Social, Behavioral, and Global Studies

**Lena Vasquez**,\* Executive Assistant — Foundation Administration

## Promotions

**Pamela Consulo**,\* Research Technician, Sea Floor Mapping Lab — Div. of Science and Environmental Policy

**Sara Stolt**, Administrative Support Coordinator — Business and Support Services

## Probation passed

**Nicholas Mount**, Administrative Analyst/Specialist — Financial Aid

\* Foundation employee

Thanks to University Human Resources for this information.

## Volunteer at commencement

Volunteers are needed to help on commencement day, May 17. Volunteers serve as ushers, escorts and student coordinators. For more information, call Phyllis Grillo at 582-4141 or via FirstClass.

## Big success for Dress for Success

Dress for Success, a CSUMB Women's Leadership Council event held four times this spring, helped more than 200 men and women students select donated business attire to start their professional careers. All clothing is free of charge to students.

Aided by local media coverage, the events brought in over 25 new clothing contributors, as well as numerous inquiries about the program. The event was organized by Lisa Thomas, development officer, and Eva Quiroz-Mojica, development coordinator, both in University Advancement.

Volunteers included staff members Francine

Flores, Pilar Gose, Caroline Haskell, Gail Denby-Hickey, Courtney Kuhn, Lianne Minemoto and Ruthie Morse. Student volunteers were Simona Depedri and Querra Tatsuoka. From the community came Charles Humphrey (Rabobank), Karen Letendre (WLC member), Lisa Molina (Dole Vegetables) and Lisa Watkins (Rabobank).

For more information about Dress for Success, go to [csumb.edu/supportwomen](http://csumb.edu/supportwomen).



Ruthie Morse, administrative support coordinator in University Advancement, helps graduating student Karl Pontau select a business wardrobe for a future job interview.

## Fulbright award (continued from page 6)

address decades of systematic injustice. There is a great opportunity to help contribute to a major transformation in the country.”

Pollack is one of 800 U.S. faculty members who will travel to 150 countries during the 2008-09 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, the program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated leadership in their fields.

Pollack joined CSUMB in 1997 to serve as the university's first faculty director of service learning and has helped the SLI become recognized as a national leader in the field. In 2005, he was awarded the prestigious Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning, which is given by the non-profit group Campus Compact. He was commended for his exemplary teaching, his scholarly contribution to the intersection of service learning and multicultural education, and his efforts to institutionalize service learning at CSUMB.

His year in South Africa won't be his first stint abroad. He spent five years in Mali, a desert country in West Africa, where he worked primarily with women's groups on issues of conservation and economic empowerment.

Pollack also produced a series of documentary films on environmental and economic sustainability, coordinating filming in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, Honduras and Arkansas. The film series, “The Quiet Revolution,” was broadcast on PBS in 1993 and received a gold prize at the EarthWatch Environmental Film Festival.

After returning to the United States, he earned a Ph.D. in International Development Education at Stanford.

He is the fourth CSUMB faculty member to win a Fulbright. Dr. Judy Cortes, Spanish-language instructor and field placement coordinator in the Department of Teacher Education, spent a semester lecturing at a Chilean university in 2007; Dr. Lorenzo Covarrubias, an instructor in the Division of Social, Behavioral and Global Studies, spend 2007 lecturing at the Autonomous University of Sinaloa-Mazatlan, in Mazatlan, Mexico; and Dr. Angie Tran, professor of political economy in the Division of Social, Behavioral and Global Studies, spent the 1999 academic year teaching at Hanoi National University, the first Fulbright Scholar in Vietnam.

# Next up at the World Theater: El Vez

The Performing Arts Series at the World Theater continues with El Vez. Mixing the styles of Elvis Presley and many other American rock artists with his own Latin-American heritage and music, El Vez, also known as Robert Lopez, is known for expressing revolutionary views through satire and humor in his songs. The self-proclaimed "Mexican Elvis" has appeared on numerous television programs, including "The Tonight Show," "Oprah," MTV and HBO, among others.

For tickets or further information, call the World Theater box office at 582-4580 or purchase tickets online at the [CSUMB.EDU/worldtheater](http://CSUMB.EDU/worldtheater) website. For disability-related accommodations, please contact the World Theater box office. Event dates, programs and artists are subject to change.



El Vez, also known as Robert Lopez, brings his unique musical interpretations to the World Theater.

## To attend

**What:** El Vez

**When:** 7:30 p.m., May 8

**Where:** World Theater

**Cost:** \$22 for CSUMB staff and faculty

**Info:** 582-4580

*Campus Connection* is published during the academic year by CSUMB University Advancement. Don Porter, editor; Joan Weiner, contributor. Please use the *Event Request Form*, available under *Events* within *TheSource* in FirstClass, to submit event information. Send the form by e-mail to [don\\_porter@csumb.edu](mailto:don_porter@csumb.edu), by fax at 831-582-3505, or by paper to Don Porter, Public Affairs, #97. Phone: 831-582-3302. To be considered for publication, editor must receive items by the 12th day of the month preceding month of publication. Items are published on a space-available basis and subject to editing. Content of this newsletter is based on information available at press time.

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I do not wish to receive a hard copy of future issues of *Campus Connection*.

**Eddy Hogan**  
**#12**