

# THE ELECTIONS ISSUE

THE BIG STORY

## ASI election coverage

### Voting starts today

**PRESIDENT**

Mike Kwon

Alex Dominguez

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

Nicole Mirkazemi

Alana Lim

**Q&A with Presidential Candidates**  
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**How to vote**  
Election polls open today through tomorrow at 9 p.m. A link to the online ballot will be sent to students' CSUB email accounts.

MAYOR RACE



James Chavez/The Runner  
Karen Goh responds to a question during the mayoral debate on May 19 at the Student Housing East multi-purpose room.

## LGBT question sparks debate

By Jonathan Wells  
Reporter

Gaspar.

This question garnered many different responses from the crowd and the candidates, but none made the crowd react more than the response of candidate Karen Goh, who they felt was not giving them a straight answer.

"I have private views and public views," said Goh. "When I am in private, I have my own personal views, but when I am in the public, I have the views of the public."

Many community members thought this response along with many others answered by the candidates were too vague and did not give them a proper response to their questions.

When it came time for the audience to ask questions, the LGBT related question was proposed again trying to get better clarity on the subject.

Again unsatisfied by the candidates' responses, the crowd began to shout comments like, "It's a yes or no question," "Spin doctor," and "Career politician," to a number of the candidates, but due to her earlier response, most of the audience's attention was focused on Goh.

Additionally, Gaspar asked candidates De La Torre and Merrill how they planned to keep the peace between the Bakersfield police and the community.

"Bring the community and law enforcement together and limit the deaths," said De la Torre.

"Our police are great," said Alex Merrill.

See DEBATE, Page 4

LGBT discussions dominated the Mayoral Debate held by CSU Bakersfield's Public Relations Student Society of America Thursday, May 19 in the Student Housing East multi-purpose room.

Of the 25 candidates that will be on the ballot come the June 7 primary, 16 were in attendance at Thursday's mayoral debate: Nathan Nemnich, Marc DeLeon, Gregory Tatum, Karen Goh, Gilberto De La Torre, Alex Merrill, T.J. Esposito, Tanner Thompson, Michael Harmon, William Minnick, Benjamin Weigel, Valiant Robinson, Scott Monroe, Kevin Blanton, Addison Chavez and Tyrone Smith.

The candidates were arranged into four groups, three with four candidates and the last with five.

Each group was asked an individual question and every candidate within that group was given 60 seconds to answer the question posed by the moderator.

The 16 candidates answered questions about police relations, library privatization, stimulating the economy, air pollution, homelessness and the growing LGBT community within Bakersfield.

However, of all the questions asked, none stirred more controversy than the question concerning the LGBT community.

"Would you participate and walk in an LGBT parade and would you be supportive of that?" asked moderator Jose

PRIMARIES

## Clinton speaks at Cesar Chavez High



Andrea Calderon/The Runner  
Former U.S. President Bill Clinton spoke to the Delano community to campaign for his wife Hillary Clinton on May 22.

By Andrea Calderon  
Web Editor

Hundreds of people filled the high school's cafeteria to conclude the convention. The event began with a performance from the school's Titan band, following the high school's choir singing the national anthem.

Before Clinton took the stage, both [Hillary] Clinton's campaign organizers and Rodriguez spoke in support of [Hillary] Clinton. They thanked the Clintons for supporting farm workers' rights and spoke against Republican candidate Donald Trump.

See CLINTON, Page 4

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton visited Cesar E. Chavez High School in Delano, Calif. on Sunday to give the closing address at the United Farm Workers convention and to campaign for his wife, presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Joining in support for [Hillary] Clinton's campaign was UFW co-founder Dolores Huerta and current UFW President Arturo Rodriguez.

## Actors rally Sanders' supporters



Chris Mateo/The Runner  
Actors Josh Hutcherson and Nicholas Gonzalez attend a Bernie Sanders rally at Jastro Park in Bakersfield on May 18.

By Javier Valdes  
News Editor

Bernie Sanders supporters and volunteers gathered at Jastro Park on Wednesday, May 18 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for a rally showing support for the Democratic candidate.

The rally featured "Hunger Games" actor Josh Hutcherson and "The Flash" actor Nicholas Gonzalez, as they urged the crowd to go out and register to vote for the upcoming elections. Although some of the 50-plus attendees showed their support for Sanders wearing shirts that read "Bernie, Bernie, Bernie" and holding "Bernie for President" signs, most of those attending were excited Hutcherson fans. Bakersfield College journalism student Kylie Hendrickson, 27, did not find out about the rally until earlier on Wednesday when her friend messaged her that Hutcherson would be appearing at the event. Hendrickson was disappointed the event wasn't really advertised and that not many people showed up.

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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ELECTIONS

Presidential candidates face off

Questions by Esteban Ramirez, Editor-in-Chief

Kwon seeks to expand CSUB after-hour access



Mike Kwon

Tell us who you are. Include age, major, year in school and any other clubs or organizations you are on at CSUB.

Hello, my name is Mike Kwon. I am a senior and double majoring in philosophy and political science with a concentration in pre-law. I currently serve as an officer in multiple student organizations on campus. Such organizations include, Pre-Law Society, Child, Adolescent, Family and Education Studies, Philosophy and Religious Studies, and the Fashion Club.

What is the platform you are running on and your vision for the position?

The platform that I am running on is "moving forward." As ASI President, I have initiated projects related to diversity and inclusivity with programs such as the "It's On Us" campaign and ASI Diversity Week. If re-elected, I plan on continuing with making our campus inclusive and celebrate diversity among each student. I also want ASI to be moving forward in a productive and positive manner by making sure that they are contributing

to the growth of our beautiful campus. Student input should be at every decision-making table, and I will ensure that the priorities of the students shall be heard and implemented. With the success of expanding library hours to 1 a.m., I want to make sure that the university is accessible to all students for their studying needs. By implementing an open campus for students, students will have the opportunity to study at their convenience and will only need their student IDs. Another vision is to make sure that student government is always at the forefront of the minds of students when it comes to their issues and concerns. The ASI president, with the direction of the ASI board, should be standing for every student and be mindful of the impact that each student makes on campus. This will be accomplished by bi-monthly forums so that students can meet and greet their ASI representatives as well as voice any concerns or issues that they might have.

How important is it to you to be transparent with all the students?

For all two years that I have served in student government, the presidents have stressed transparency because it leads to respect amongst the student body. Having been trained by two previous presidents, I have made sure to learn how to stay transparent by reaching out to students about possible decisions that the university is making and ensuring that the groups understand the implications of such decisions. By being president, I have stressed communication to the student body on all initiatives and will

continue to do so as president.

What do you want to do when you graduate?

After serving in student government for the past two years, I have grown to appreciate the connection and dedication that each administrator, faculty and staff have toward the students on campus. By seeing that special connection, I want to continue in providing and heightening the student experience by working on a university or college campus and impact future students.

Why should we vote for you?

I have had the opportunity to connect and build friendships and relationships with a majority of students on this campus. I have had the pleasure of meeting a diverse group of students and have enjoyed every minute of student government. I personally have devoted 15 hours a day in office to make sure that the student experience on this campus is being heightened. I want to reassure students that since I have served them for the past year, I can bring any issue to the proper individuals on campus and make sure that it gets resolved in a timely manner. I also want to reassure students again that, if re-elected, I plan on devoting time to only my classes and the students in which I serve. I plan on seeking other external opportunities on campus so that I may continue to serve the students in which elected me into the position.

For the full interview of the ASI candidates go to our website [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com)

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ASI elections will take place  
Wednesday May 26  
and Thursday May 27 via student email

Dominguez advocates for lower student fees



Alex Dominguez

Tell us who you are. Include age, major, year in school and any other clubs or organizations you are on at CSUB.

My name is Alex Dominguez. I am 21 years old. I am a junior and majoring in political science. I am currently involved in the College Republicans Club on campus.

What is the platform you are running on and what is your vision for the position?

ASI operates a budget well over a quarter of a million dollars funded by the students. The incumbent seeking re-election takes \$7,200 of student dollars just for being President. ASI vice presidents take \$6,600 of student dollars. In Executive Scholarships alone, nearly \$35,000 of student dollars is taken and put in the pockets of a select few. During my time as President of Bakersfield College's SGA, we implemented a minimum wage system where student government officers got paid minimum wage for their set amount of office hours. Anything exceeding the cap amount of office hours was considered volunteer work. If this system is implemented at CSUB, we can save the students \$12,800. However, it does not stop there. After going through the budget, our team was shocked to see just how wasteful the current ASI is with the students' dollars. If elected, our

team can and will reallocate funds from ASI operations toward student organizations and the creation of ASI sponsored student scholarships. Something else we noticed when analyzing the budget is that the "Legislative/Advocacy" budget line item was wiped. This was clearly noted when the Golden Empire Transit Board discussed increasing bus fares several months ago. There was no ASI representation there to defend the students. Legislative advocacy will be an integral part of our team's agenda. I have worked for a Kern County supervisor, a state senator and a United States congressman. I have served on Boards and been involved with community development efforts across Kern County. I know the legislative process at all levels and its importance. Our team will stand up for the students' interest from the smallest community development board to our Nation's Capitol. Through our first two points of reallocating student dollars and engaging the community, we will be able to promote a stronger and more enhanced campus life. By allocating funds back to the clubs, Greek life and other student organizations, they will have the ability and resources to host more events and participate in leadership opportunities. The clubs and other student organizations are the ones closest to the students. Therefore, we believe they should have one of the biggest budgets.

How important is it to you to be transparent with all the students?

Transparency and accountability are some of the most important aspects of any governmental organization. When I served as Student Government President of Bakersfield College, we followed the California State Brown Act to the tee. If an agenda was not made public to the student body 72 hours in advance as the law states, we would not have a meeting. Minutes will be made easily accessible to the students, The

Runner and anyone else who desires records all in a timely manner. In order to maintain accountability, we plan to have bi-weekly town hall forums in order to keep the students' interests and concerns as our main priority. During these meetings we will have ASI representatives present with a legislative agenda and budget in order for the student population to be as informed as possible.

What do you want to do when you graduate?

In 2009, a drunk driver hit my family head on causing detrimental damage to members of my family. The driver dealt several fatalities in his vehicle. He only got three years in prison. After graduating CSUB next year, I hope to attend law school in order to defend those who cannot defend themselves. To stand up for those members of my community who cannot stand-alone. I was born here in Bakersfield and spent several years of my life in Wasco, Calif. Kern County is my home and has made me who I am today. It is my goal to give back to my community in any way I can.

Why should we vote for you?

I have a record of success through my work as Student Government President at Bakersfield College and as the Student Trustee of the Kern Community College District where I represented three colleges and approximately 30,000 students. It is my goal to take the students' dollar out of executive scholarships that go into the pockets of individuals and reallocate them back to student organizations and the creation of ASI Student Scholarships. I will advocate for the students on every level of government, from the GET Bus Board Room to our Nation's Capitol. The students are my priority. CSUB is my priority. I guarantee each student I will represent them and their interest to the best of my ability each day in office.

MAJORS THAT MATTER  
ARTS & HUMANITIES

CSUB THEATRE FEST PRESENTS

La Gringa

by Carmen Rivera  
directed by Maria-Tania Becerra

The story of a young Puerto Rican American's search for her cultural identity.

May 19-21, 26-28 at 8PM  
May 29 at 2PM  
Doré Theatre

[csub.edu/theatre](http://csub.edu/theatre)

Gilberto De La Torre

Vote for me as your Mayor  
I'm here to listen to you

It's our community  
God loves us all  
Together we are one  
June 7 vote De La Torre  
[gilberto.delatorre@yahoo.com](mailto:gilberto.delatorre@yahoo.com)

VOTE OPAL MORLAND  
for  
MAYOR of  
BAKERSFIELD

JUNE 7, 2016

Community Activist  
Child Advocate  
Dance Instructor

<b>THE RUNNER</b>  Volume 41, Issue 25  The Runner California State University, Bakersfield 9001 Stockdale Hwy. Bakersfield, CA 93311-1099  Telephone: 661-654-2165  Email: <a href="mailto:therunner.online@gmail.com">therunner.online@gmail.com</a>  <a href="http://therunneronline.com">therunneronline.com</a>	<b>editorial staff</b>  <b>EDITOR-IN-CHIEF</b> Esteban Ramirez  <b>NEWS EDITOR</b> Javier Valdes  <b>FEATURES EDITOR</b> Annie Russell  <b>SPORTS EDITOR</b> Joe Macias  <b>PHOTO EDITOR</b> Karina Diaz  <b>WEB EDITOR</b> Andrea Calderon	<b>MULTIMEDIA EDITOR</b> Julie Mana-ay  <b>ASSISTANT EDITORS</b> Erica Carcamo and Alejandra Flores  <b>AD MANAGER</b> Andrea Flores <a href="mailto:aflores62@csub.edu">aflores62@csub.edu</a>  <b>ADVISER</b> Jennifer Burger <a href="mailto:jburger1@csub.edu">jburger1@csub.edu</a>  <b>ABOUT</b> The Runner is a laboratory newspaper published weekly, in conjunction with the Communications Department at California State University, Bakersfield.	<b>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</b> Send letters to <a href="mailto:therunner.online@gmail.com">therunner.online@gmail.com</a> . All letters must be signed and verified and be no more than 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.  <b>DISCLAIMERS</b> Views and opinions expressed in The Runner are not necessarily those of the editors, staff or the Communications Department. The staff of The Runner reserves the right to refuse or omit any advertising or material which advocates illegal activity, or which may be considered libelous, irresponsible or tasteless.  <b>COPYRIGHT</b> Copyright belongs to the Communications Department at California State University, Bakersfield.
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ELECTIONS

Candidates for VP discuss goals, ideas

Questions by Esteban Ramirez, Editor-in-Chief

Lim wants more inclusivity



Alana Lim

Tell us who you are. Include age, major, year in school and any other clubs or organizations you are on at CSUB.

My name is Alana Lim. I am 21 years old and a junior human resources major. I currently serve as the treasurer and event coordinator in the Financial Management Association, a member of the Society of Human Resources Management, the Geology Club and Nu Phi Chi Sorority.

What are your goals and your vision for the position?

My goals include fostering a more inclusive culture within ASI, improving student outreach and maintaining strong and healthy relationships with clubs and organizations on campus. It is important to have an environment with-

in an organization where students feel welcomed and confident enough to approach their student leaders and inquire about any issues that they deem important.

Other goals include increasing congressional advocacy efforts with the California State Student Association, implementing "Get to Know Us" events that foster a deeper connection between the university and fellow students in order to advance campus life, and initiating professional development events that enable students to gain better perspectives on potential career tracks. My vision is to help cultivate leaders not just within ASI but amongst our student population.

How important is it to you to be transparent with all the students?

Like my running mate, Alex Dominguez, transparency is of the utmost importance. Sadly, a lack of transparency is abundant under the current and past ASI administrations. As a student representative, it is not only necessary to allow for transparency in order to facilitate effective communication but also mindful of our student's rights to ensure proper representation in higher education through inclusive operations. Inclusivity through transparency would allow students to contribute to discussions regarding a few of my initiatives.

Apart from enabling a chan-

nel of fluid communication, greater transparency correlates with my personal mission of making student government a student-friendly and success-driven organization where leaders are placed to support our student's development.

What do you want to do when you graduate?

I would like to move to New York to continue my career as a human resources professional and eventually further my education by going to graduate school for an MBA. I also would like to dedicate my time and volunteer for a non-profit that advocates for anti-human trafficking on a global level.

Why should we vote for you?

By developing professional career events and contributing to projects through student organizations such as Nu Phi Chi Sorority, the Financial Management Association, the Geology Club and the Society of Human Resources Management, I have experienced the diligence, drive and innovation essential to implement meaningful change into individual student experiences. Dedication to community engagement through volunteer service is something I value and in like manner I plan to commit myself to the mission of our university: enhancing the personal development of our students.

Mirkazemi is for transparency



Nicole Mirkazemi

Tell us who you are. Include age, major, year in school and any other clubs or organizations you are on at CSUB.

My name is Nicole Mirkazemi and I am 20 years old. I am a second-year political science major with a concentration in pre-law.

Apart from being your current director of social sciences and education in ASI, I am also involved in various aspects of our campus. Academically speaking, I am a member of the Hawk Honors Society, Pi Sigma Alpha (a political science honor society), Alpha Chi (a college honor society) and Sensational Sophomores. I am also a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and the Fashion Club. I am the co-founder of the Pre-Law Society where students interested in law can

have internship opportunities, gain community involvement and acquire knowledge on the LSAT, Bar exam, and law school.

What are your goals and your vision for the position?

My goals for this position include helping the students directly by advocating for higher education issues, continuing to increase and enhance CSUB's involvement in the community by opening more opportunities for students to volunteer in the community and on campus, and extending the hours of study areas around campus to allow for more student accessibility. My vision for this position is for student leaders to represent the overall student body to the best of their ability, to have an ASI member at every campus committee meeting and to increase student input on all issues concerning what goes on at this university.

How important is it to you to be transparent with all the students?

Transparency is very important to me. I will actually say that transparency is my number one priority. I believe that anything we as student leaders do must go through or at least be seen by the students. We are advocating on their behalf and anything we do should be in their best interests. One of the main reasons I voted against the fee increases was because there was no transparency. It should've

gone through the students first.

What do you want to do when you graduate?

When I graduate, I would like to attend law school to continue to advocate for people's rights. I have loved the law and politics for a majority of my life and would like to become an attorney. I am still undecided on which exact type of law I would like to practice. However, I know that whichever one I do choose will be the one that advocates for individuals' rights.

Why should we vote for you?

Students should vote for me because I will advocate for their rights. I will always put the students first. I believe that student input should be every student leader's first priority. I am not running for the title or the position. I am not running because anyone asked me to run and I am not running for any self-benefitting, resume-building reason. I am running to be the voice of the students. I believe that each and every one of your voices matter. Vote Nicole Mirkazemi for executive vice president. EDITOR'S NOTE: These stories has been edited for length. For the full interviews of the candidates, go to [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com).

For coverage of the debate, go to our website [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com).

# What's Going on Around Campus

☒ Mark your calendars with these upcoming events at CSUB. You can also find events at [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com).

<b>WED., MAY 25</b> "THE GOOD NEWS" MASS SERVICE 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM @ SU MPR 125  NATIONAL SOCIETY OF LEADERSHIP & SUCCESS INDUCTION CEREMONY 6-8 PM @ SU MPR 125	<b>THURSDAY, MAY 26</b> SPRING 2016 SHORT FILM SCREENING 7-10 PM @ SU MPR 125  "LA GRINGA" 8-10 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE  DESSERT WITH AUTHOR JEREMY S. ADAMS 7 PM @ DEZEMBER READING ROOM	<b>FRIDAY, MAY 27</b> PSI CHI RESEARCH CONFERENCE 10 AM - 1 PM @ RESIDENCE HALL MPR  VIOLIN MASTERCLASS 4-6 PM @ MUSIC BLDG 127  "LA GRINGA" 8-10 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE
<b>SATURDAY, MAY 28</b> WALTER PRESENTS: GUERREROS AMERICANOS 3-5 PM @ DEZEMBER READING ROOM  CHAMBER MUSIC SPRING CONCERT 7:30 - 9 PM @ MUSIC BLDG 127  "LA GRINGA" 8-10 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE	<b>SUNDAY, MAY 29</b> "LA GRINGA" MATINEE 2-4 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE \$10 GA, \$8 SENIORS & FACULTY, \$5 STUDENTS W/ ID	<b>TUESDAY, MAY 31</b> THE ROWDY'S AWARDS 7 - 9:30 PM @ FOX THEATRE
<b>WED., JUNE 1</b> ASIAN AFFINITY GROUP LUNCH 12-1 PM @ SU MPR 125  CSUB FOUNDATION QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING 3-5 PM @ ICARDO ROOM	<b>FRIDAY, JUNE 3</b> ARTS & HUMANITIES GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY 10-11 AM @ A&H BUILDING  BERNIE SANDERS RALLY 6-8 PM @ ICARDO ROOM  CONCERT BAND SPRING CONCERT 7:30 - 9:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE	<b>SATURDAY, JUNE 4</b> BLACK GRAD RECOGNITION CEREMONY 10 - 11 AM @ ICARDO ACTIVITIES CENTER  CSUB JAZZ ENSEMBLE SPRING CONCERT 8 - 9:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE

Calendar sponsored by CSUB Office of Student Affairs, School of Arts & Humanities, Walter Stiern Library, and the School of Business and Public Administration. To be included, contact [aflores62@csub.edu](mailto:aflores62@csub.edu).

# STUDY STRONG

SPRING '16 \*SRC WILL BE HOSTING QUIET STUDY TIME IN THE SOLARIO FROM 9AM-9PM FROM 6/6 - 6/10

<b>6/6 MONDAY</b>  FREE FOOD STUDENT UNION LOBBY 12 PM  CAESAR'S ITALIAN DELICATESSEN  SRC PRESENTS: ZEN ZONE  SRC SOLARIO 1-4:30 PM	<b>6/7 TUESDAY</b>  READING DAY  SOCIAL MEDIA CONTEST  REPOST THIS FLYER TO YOUR INSTAGRAM AND TAG CSUB PROGRAMMING FOR A CHANCE AT WINNING A BOOK STORE GIFT CARD!  PROVIDED BY ARAMARK	<b>6/8 WEDNESDAY</b>  DE-STRESS ACTIVITIES STUDENT UNION PATIO 12 PM  MASSAGES (FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE) STUDENT UNION BLUE ROOM 1-3 PM  FREE LATE NIGHT BREAKFAST RUNNER CAFE 8-10 PM
<b>6/9 THURSDAY</b>  FREE BREAKFAST STUDENT UNION 9AM	<b>6/10 FRIDAY</b>  MOTIVATIONAL MUNCHIES 10:15-11:15 AM 1:15-2:15 PM 4:15-5:15 PM	

FINISH THE YEAR OFF STRONG!

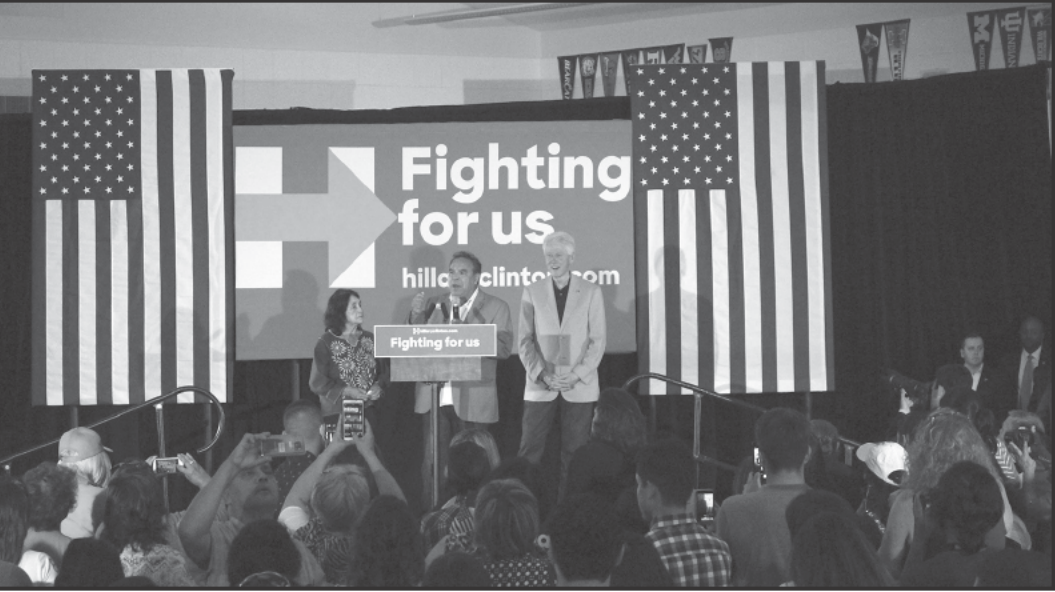
CAMPUS PROGRAMMING SRC as ASSOCIATED STUDENTS INC. aramark

# FINALS ARE COMING...

# STUDY STRONG. STUDY OFTEN.



PRIMARIES



Bill Clinton speaks at Cesar E. Chavez High School to show his support for wife Hillary Clinton in Delano, Calif. on Sunday, May 22.

# Clinton urges vote

**[CLINTON, Page 1]**  
“We don’t need to make America great again. We already are great,” said Nicole Villaruz, chair of the Democratic Party of Kern County. Clinton and Huerta both walked on stage together where Huerta introduced the former president.  
“We have been very, very fortunate to have other people in the presidency who have also been great and now we have of course right behind me Bill Clinton,” said Huerta.  
She also expressed gratitude toward the former president and his wife.  
“We are so lucky now that we are going to be able to work, to get somebody else elected for the presidency, Hillary Clinton!” said Huerta. “They have always been there for us.”  
As Clinton addressed the crowd he spoke in support of his wife and talked about her plans if elected president.

“Hillary believes that we should grow together, work together and live together,” said Clinton. “The only thing that will ever work is if we maximize what is great about this country and reduce our problems.”  
He shared [Hillary] Clinton’s ideas on the economy, immigration, higher education and climate change.  
Clinton urged the audience to vote in the June 7 primaries.  
“If you want something done, you should elect Hillary for president of the United States,” said Clinton as he finalized his address. “She will be a great president, but she can’t be a great president unless you back her in California.”  
Clinton welcomed Emilio Huerta, [Dolores] Huerta’s son, to the stage to ask for the audience’s support as he is running for congress.  
At the end of the event, Clinton shook people’s hands and

even hugged a few.  
Clinton’s visit was filled with support from Delano and other communities.  
Irma Aguayo, a [Hillary] Clinton supporter from Avenal, Calif. traveled to Delano to be part of the event.  
Aguayo received a phone call from Emilio Huerta’s campaign inviting her to the event in Delano and said if invited to any other nearby events she may go to them.  
“Vine porque me invitaron. Me hablaron por teléfono de la campaña de Emilio Huerta,” said Aguayo in Spanish. “Si hay otros eventos cerca y me invitan a lo mejor voy también.”  
Boomer Rivera, a Delano resident expressed his support for [Hillary] Clinton.  
“I have always supported the Clintons. I voted for Bill, and I’m planning to vote for Hillary,” said Rivera. “I think [Clinton] in office is heading in the right direction.”

MAYOR RACE

# Mayoral debate heats up

**[DEBATE, Page 1]**  
“We do not want our police to be handcuffed or restricted in any way.”  
The next question addressed the production of hemp, the source of a valuable fiber that could be used to make fabrics, cosmetics, fuel, building materials, rope, plastic alternatives as well as medical marijuana.  
“No one answered your question,” said Harmon. “Hemp is not medical marijuana. Everyone spoke of marijuana but that is not what hemp is. So to answer your question sir, yes; we should produce hemp. We need to be ahead of the curve.”  
Those attending the de-

bate were unhappy with the responses that they received from the candidates, and some were left unsure as to who they would be voting for in the upcoming election.  
“I still don’t know what [mayoral candidate] I will be voting for. From my point of view, I just don’t like bullshit,” said retiree Hoang Ngo, 68, referring to Goh’s response.  
Though it may have seemed like most of the audience was displeased with the outcome of the debate, many of them walked away with a better understanding of who it was they wanted to vote for.

“I think [the debate] gave knowledge to which candidate knows what is going on locally,” said political science and philosophy major Ricardo Escobar, 20.  
Construction worker Jim Witmyer, 57, felt that the debate was a good way to find out more about the candidates running for the mayor position.  
“I think the most important thing you find out are the characteristics of the candidates, because they are going to say what they have to,” said Witmyer. “We come here to learn the candidate’s beliefs, and how they are.”

VOTING

# Measure F seeks approval

**By Domenica Ortiz**  
*Reporter*  
Measure F will ask voters to approve a 1/8th of a cent sales tax, which will fund Kern County libraries.  
The measure is projected to generate \$15 million. If approved, Measure F will last for eight years, beginning January 1, 2017.  
Kern County residents have expressed an interest in approving Measure F.  
“I have been going to the local library since I was able to read,” said Melissa Peterson. “The library has always provided me with reading materials, access to technology and countless memories.”  
Peterson stated that she has seen the decline in hours of operations at her local library and books have been swiped from shelves.  
“Libraries are sources of

knowledge,” said Joshua Ortega, philosophy major at CSU Bakersfield. “I spent endless hours at the library typing up my homework, searching the web or borrowing books. Without the library, I will not be where I am today.”  
If passed, Measure F will extend library hours, more materials will be provided in various formats and languages, programs for families will be increased, and a committee will be created with the function of recommending funding allocations.  
English major Cameron Scott said technology specifically is a crucial issue for families in Kern County.  
“Kern County libraries along with other library branches need to provide more access to technology for disadvantaged families,” said Scott.  
Measure F will support new technology, create technology trainings and workshops,

improve Internet connectivity, and provide computer literacy initiatives.  
“I love that libraries now offer free Wi-Fi, and I can not wait to see what else will be added” said Scott. “We need to approve the measure to give everyone the opportunity to learn.”  
Local librarian Sandra Evans wants everyone to support the measure.  
She believes that libraries have suffered so much in the past years. Evans believes libraries are as essential as any other institution.  
Evans stated that she wants all families to have access and equal opportunity to knowledge.  
It saddens her that libraries are not seen as essential, but rather seen as a waste of money.  
“Remember to vote in June to support your local library,” said Evans.

PRIMARIES

# Bakersfield rally feels the burn

**[SANDERS, Page 1]**  
However, she was glad for those who did.  
“Just the fact that he [Hutcherson] would come here and that people would gather as a community to do something good is great,” said Hendrickson. “I was surprised not many people were here.”  
However, Hutcherson’s appearance wasn’t the only thing that brought Hendrickson down to the rally as she also considers herself a Sanders supporter.  
“I lean more toward Bernie, especially with all the candidates out there right now like Trump and Hillary,” said Hendrickson. “Bernie seems to be the best bet.”  
As the rally began, Bernie volunteer Mike Jennings spoke about the importance of voter registration, and how those that want to vote for Sanders need to be registered as either non-partisan or Democrat to vote for the candidate.  
Jennings also announced that a Bernie Sanders headquarters would be opening Thursday on Truxtun Avenue.  
As volunteers spoke about Bakersfield and the amounts of youth and progressives that support Sanders in the

area, volunteer Sarah Cooper expressed her dislike for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.  
“We will annihilate Hillary Clinton,” said Cooper as the crowd cheered on.  
As Hutcherson approached the stage, he spoke to supporters about the importance of registering and stepping back from the Internet and actually going out there to vote.  
“I think that now it is a time of excitement that all these people have from every demographic: age, race, color and everything. You guys are all here and that is representative of America as a whole,” Hutcherson said.  
Hutcherson said that the Sanders’ movement won’t end regardless of the outcome of the nomination.  
“When Bernie is in office or if he is not, we will have this movement that has been ignited and it’s not going to stop,” he said.  
Gonzalez echoed Hutcherson’s words as he spoke about the low numbers of those registered compared to tweets and shared posts.  
“Now, I’m asking you to register. Turn that voice into a vote, and not only that but turn

multiple voices into votes,” said Gonzalez.  
Gonzalez also spoke about what sealed it for him in his support for Sanders.  
“Since the beginning...he [Sanders] said ‘I didn’t get into politics to figure out how to become a senator or president, I got into politics because I give a damn,’” said Gonzalez.  
The actors took pictures with fans following the rally and as fans stepped up for a picture the actors would make sure to ask fans if they had registered to vote, sending those who hadn’t to the registration table to.  
BC American Sign Language student Megan Fenwick, 21, stopped by the rally to show her support for Sanders.  
This was the first rally that Fenwick has attended. Although she is already registered, she wanted to stop by the registration table because this will be her first time voting, and she had a couple of questions that she needed help answering.  
The event provided attendees the opportunity to answer questions, become further involved or to donate to the Sanders campaign.

REGISTRATION



CSU Bakersfield students register to vote as elections near in front of the Student Union on Tuesday, May 17.

# Students register to vote

**By Amie Birks**  
*Reporter*  
As election primaries near, CSU Bakersfield’s Student Recreation Center hosted a voter information event on Tuesday, May 17 where CSUB students had the opportunity to register to vote and become well informed on what’s at stake for the upcoming elections.  
Representatives from California Common Cause, a non-profit, non-partisan organization spoke to a dozen students and staff about voter turnout, myths about millennial voter participation and why student votes matter.  
“It is true that millennial voter engagement is at a low in terms of history, but why that rests on a fallacy is that voter engagement is actually decreasing across the board,” said Hinnaneh Qazi operations coordinator for California Common Cause.  
Qazi said that a large reason why millennials don’t come out to voter polls is because they don’t have trust in the government and the political process, it conflicts with their schedule, they think their votes don’t matter or they simply aren’t interested.  
Despite a lack of involvement

in voting, Qazi said that millennials are involved in other avenues of social change such as volunteer work.  
Qazi emphasized the importance and impact that student votes can have on the national, state and local level.  
“When millennials do actually vote it can make a huge difference,” said Qazi.  
Later in the evening, there was a congressional debate between candidates Ken Mettler and Wendy Reed. Student president of the College Democrats club Pedro Naveiras and student president of the College Republicans club Jake Thomasy moderated the debate and questioned the candidates as to why they chose to run as representatives.  
“I am tired of fighting our government,” said Reed. “Why do we have to fight our government?” We’ve elected people who don’t represent us.”  
Mettler also shared with the audience about his purpose for running and his desire for an honest government.  
“I don’t care if someone is on the left or the right, I will call them out. If they are doing something that’s not right for the people they need to be held accountable,” said Mettler.  
Reed and Mettler spoke about their differing views on

student debt, online education, diverting water from the delta and what they have to offer that current congressmen and opponent, Kevin McCarthy does not.  
“We can differ philosophically on the issues, but we can agree that we want [an] open, honest [and] transparent government,” said Mettler.  
Near the end of the event, representatives of Bernie Sanders, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump participated in an open forum where they gave reason for their support and answered questions concerning their campaign.  
Earlier in the day they had a voter registration drive set up at the Student Union Patio. Naveiras estimated about 25 students to have registered to vote and said that the College Democrats work together with the College Republicans to get as many students as possible to register to vote.  
“We want students to be involved civically,” said Naveiras.  
Naveiras said they hope to have another voter registration drive in the next two to three weeks. Students are also able to register to vote online through their myCSUB account or at registertovote.ca.gov.



ACCIDENT

# Vehicles collide in front of campus

**By Chris Mateo**  
*Distribution Manager*

Two vehicles collided at the intersection of Stockdale Highway and Don Hart Drive East at the CSU Bakersfield campus at 6:14 p.m. on Tuesday.

A black Scion car carrying two female passengers was rear-ended by a Ford truck driven by an unidentified male as the Scion waited for the light to turn green on Stockdale Highway.

The Scion made a 360-degree turn after being struck, and the Ford truck lost control and swerved onto the curb, entering the CSUB campus.

The truck eventually came to a stop at the bottom of the CSUB Amphitheatre next to some boulders on the ground.

The identity of both parties have not yet been released.

Nison Kandkhorov, 30, a graduate student was coming

onto campus to study.

According to Kandkhorov, he was waiting in the turning lane on Stockdale Highway to turn onto Don Hart Drive East, when the Ford truck rear-ended the Scion. Kandkhorov was able to capture the whole incident on video with a dashboard camera in his vehicle.

“I just felt like a shock, like an impact,” said Kandkhorov. “I was like, ‘Whoa, did it just happen to me?’”

The Bakersfield Police Department and University Police Department were both on the scene.

“From what witnesses said is, this vehicle [Ford truck] in here rear-ended the other car, the Scion, and at some point ended up in your guys’ school,” said BPD officer Marco Vazquez.

Vazquez said the driver of the truck was not arrested but was being detained.

Vazquez did not give further



A dark blue Scion xB was rear-ended on May 18 on Stockdale Highway and Don Hart Drive East in front of CSU Bakersfield. Ben Patton/The Runner

information since the incident is still under investigation.

Samuel Corona, 26, is a post baccalaureate who was walking to campus when the accident occurred and witnessed the incident.

“I was walking down with my headphones in. I heard two loud crashes,” said Corona.

Corona said that he and another bystander ran over to the truck to help him out but it seemed as though the truck was backing up.

“I believe he lost control and veered down this path,” said Corona. “I think his right wheel was torn up and so I think he lost control that way.”

CAMPUS

## Fee increases explained

**By Annie Russell**  
*Features Editor*

The Campus Fee Advisory Committee called to order their meeting on April 19 at 11:04 a.m. to discuss the raising of the technology fee and MyWritingLabPlus fee for students.

In regards to the technology fee, the fee was proposed by Associate Vice President of Information Technology Services and CIO Faust Gorham.

The proposal urged the increase of the Instructional Related Activities Campus Fee for the purpose of replacing aging computers in smart classrooms, instructional television studios, and computer labs.

The fee would also periodically cover refreshing computer labs and printers throughout the campus. With the approval of a \$32 fee for students, 760 computers and printers in computer labs would be replaced

every four years.

“Its pretty good,” said freshman English major Nataly Perez. “It’s more advanced in some classes than others.”

Though a majority of the panel on the Campus Fee Advisory Committee are students from the Associated Students Inc., not many of CSU Bakersfield students were aware of the raising of these fees or who the Campus Fee Advisory Committee is.

“I would probably just blindly pay it like most people do,” junior biology major, James Mauldin said. “It [technology] gets the job done. I don’t see why it needs to be improved.”

“Overall, I’m content with what we have,” Mauldin said, only noting that he would like to see more charging stations for cell phones.

The motion to raise the technology fee from \$3 dollars to \$12 a semester was seconded and failed.

There were several motions

to raise the fee by \$4 for the next four years until the fee is at \$25, which would allow for stability in technology over the next four years. This motion was seconded and failed.

A motion was also made to raise the technology fee to \$15 per semester with no increases added to the fee over the years unless a new proposal is submitted and discussed in front of the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

“I like technology. I feel like it helps reduce some stress,” said sophomore psychology major, Jessica Banuelos. “But when technology fails, it really sucks. I think with all the money that CSUB pours in, I don’t think we should have all those extra fees.” Banuelos said.

The proposal to raise the technology fee is still at the discretion of President Dr. Horace Mitchell, who can still approve, reject or modify the fee in question.

ASSAULT

## UPD releases suspect photo

**By Chris Mateo**  
*Distribution Manager*

The University Police Department has released an image of the suspect involved in a sexual assault incident in the Walter Stiern Library on May 6.

According to the campus safety bulletin sent out to students via email on Friday at approximately 2:45 p.m., a CSUB student was studying in a room inside the library when she was approached by a male portraying himself as a kinesiology student.

The male asked for the student’s help with his physical therapy work and asked if she would allow him to practice on her. He proceeded to conduct stretching exercises on the student, then attempted to touch the student in a manner beyond what she had consented. The student confronted the male about the inappropriate touching at which point he left the area.

“We are still in the early stage of the investigation,” said

University Police Chief Marty Williamson.

The campus safety bulletin about this incident was sent out by Williamson to CSUB students, but according to Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer for Information Technology Services Faust Gorham, students couldn’t receive the attachment with the bulletin because Office 365 does not allow for students to receive attachments. Gorham re-sent out the bulletin on May 7 around noon and added they will be removing this limitation.

According to the description from the bulletin, the suspect is described as a dark-skinned Hispanic male in his early 20s. The suspect had dark, brown eyes, long hair which was gelled down, a medium build, approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and no facial hair.

An updated bulletin sent on May 19 showed a picture from



the security cameras of the suspect. The suspect is still at large and was last seen with a red and green plaid-patterned shirt with dark jeans. In the picture he is leaving the library through the main doors.

UPD is asking that if you have any information of the suspect’s where about, that you contact University Police at 661-654-2111. If you would like to make an anonymous tip you can call that 661-654-INFO(4636).



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BOXING

# Battle of the badges, win or lose



Photos by Trevante Hammonds/The Runner

Elizabeth Alvarez of Tehachapi Police Department lands a right to Lorena Vasquez of BPD on May 20 at the Icardo center.



John Bishop from BPD sits in his corner after a round at the Battle of the Badges event on May 20 in the Icardo Center.



Jared McCombs of Tehachapi Police Department gets knocked down in round one by German Lirea-Carrillo of the USN on May 20 in the Icardo Center.



Lynn Martinez of BPD lands a left hook on Evangelina Medina of CSUB's University Police Department on May 20 in the Icardo Center.

CAMPUS

# From Bakersfield to Japan and beyond in one night

By Karina Diaz  
Photo Editor

CSU Bakersfield Japan and Beyond club brought over 500 students and community members to their annual free event at the Student Recreation Center on May 20 to promote the Asian culture as part of CSUB's diversity week. The event took place at the SRC gym, which was decorated with Chinese lanterns as part of the experience of the Japanese Night Festival. "I like how it was free to everyone, which I appreciate," said CSUB student and ASI director of Clubs and Organizations Outreach Precious Nwaoha. The Japanese Night Festival event included entertainment

by CSUB singers, CSUB Judo Club, Bakersfield Budo and L.A. Takio. It offered activities, such as making origami, fortune telling, Japanese calligraphy, cosplay contest as well as games such as fish frenzy, hanetsuki, and the chopstick game. Nwaoha added that she enjoyed the entertainment of L.A. Takio. The Japan and Beyond club partnered with CSUB gamers to provide video games to play. They held a silent auction and raffle that presented winners with prizes that were provided by the club. The event had outside vendors selling merchandise based on pop culture such as key chains, lanyards, charms, action fig-

ures, Japanese culture snacks and more. They served sushi, yakisoba, gyoza, chicken teriyaki and mixed vegetables. "I went not knowing what to expect, but I thought it was really cool and interesting," said CSUB biology major Lesly Chavez. "I went not knowing what to expect, but I thought it was really cool and interesting." Lesly Chavez, Biology major



Ben Patton/The Runner

A Sith barters with a vendor at the Matsuri event in the Student Recreation Center on May 20. The event was hosted by Japan and Beyond.

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REVIEW

# Happy Hour at Sports and Spirits

By Andrea Flores  
Staff Member

Usually I don't make it out to Happy Hour because of my school schedule, but on Wednesdays Sports and Spirits has Happy Hour all day, not just the regular 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. most businesses offer. It may not be ideal to go and get tipsy on a Wednesday night, but I'm 21 and we're only in college once, so why not? My friends told me they enjoyed going there on Wednesdays because of the cheap drinks, and because the bar

tenders made the drinks really strong so it wouldn't take many drinks to get a solid buzz. They weren't kidding. I'm a vodka-cranberry type of a girl because I'm not trying to drink four beers to only get a buzz. I'd much rather drink four vodka cranberries and be almost drunk. A wise person once told me drinking with the intentions of not getting drunk is a waste of calories. The Happy Hour drink specials means \$2 drafts and \$3.50 well cocktails all day. It is a cool hangout spot. There were

people playing pool and shooting darts—nothing too crazy. I thought it was especially crazy for a Wednesday night because after 10 p.m. you had to wait about 10 minutes for your next drink. I noticed a group of guys next to me who were enjoying the \$5 Fireball shots. Personally, the taste of Fireball reminds me of cinnamon buns and I stay away from the sweet stuff, because then it will be hangover central the next day. I can't be hungover on Thursday because I have a 10 a.m. class and I rather not go to class


smelling like a bar. Slow and steady wins the race, because if you drink the well cocktails one after another you will end up on the floor in the bathroom of Sports and Spirits telling complete strangers about how you're newly-single. Yes, my friend thought it was a race and then her drinks hit her like a bus. Overall, I had a good experience. The drinks were cheap and strong, the service was fast and enjoyable, and the security guard didn't mind waiting outside with me and my girlfriends as we waited for our Uber.



# RUNNER ON THE STREET


By Karina Diaz / Photos by Trevante Hammonds

This week The Runner asked, "Who are you voting for ASI President? Why?"




**Genaro Garcia**  
Political science  
19

"I know Mike and I've seen him work and he actually tries. I don't think he will do good; I think he will do better for his second year."




**Geetanjali Sharma**  
Biology  
18

"I will be voting for Mike Kwon for next ASI president because I've read his goals and it seems that he would accomplish them to his full capability."



**Daniel Diaz**  
Economics  
20

"I will vote for Alex D. Start something new!"



**Ban Majali**  
Nursing  
19

"I'm going to be voting for Mike Kwon because he came to my political science class and described the benefits that he will be doing for our student body."

STAFF EDITORIAL

## The Runner endorses Dominguez, Mirkazemi

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This endorsement is the opinion of The Runner's editorial staff. We interviewed the ASI president and executive vice president candidates and are endorsing those we thought have the best platforms and ideas.

Unlike the presidential or mayoral elections that are upon us, none affects CSU Bakersfield students quite as directly as that of Associate Students Inc.

ASI members are in charge of making numerous decisions that have the potential to impact the CSUB student body in great ways. The Runner endorses presidential candidate Alex Dominguez and executive vice presidential candidate Nicole Mirkazemi to make those decisions.

**ASI President**  
CSUB is in a unique situation this year in that both presidential candidates have both made significant changes to their campuses while holding a presidential office and possess the experience required for the role.

This time last year, The Runner endorsed current presidential incumbent Mike Kwon.

Although Kwon did fulfill his previous campaign promises to bring more events that promote student

life to CSUB and has a strong plan to build on what he's started if elected, Dominguez simply has a stronger platform this year.

Dominguez is running a campaign that, if elected, would reduce the amount of fees students would pay for the ASI executive board's rate, as well as do more to bring local community involvement to CSUB, the way he did as president of Student Government Association at Bakersfield College.

His plan proposes to end the yearly scholarships currently given to ASI executives.

Instead, they would be paid minimum-wage hourly with a limit on payable hours and any extra hours would be considered volunteer work.

He implemented this same rate of pay during his time at B.C., in addition to helping to implement gender neutral bathrooms and an on-campus farmer's market.

This year, Kwon is focusing on big projects like extending library hours, expanding Runner Nights events and working with University Police Department to increase the number of security cameras and student officers on campus.

Though these are lofty goals, all of them come with a price tag.

CSUB is a commuter school, meaning lower student fees would

do more good for a larger amount of students than more concerts or events for a few hundred students.

Additionally, Dominguez already has a plan to change the ASI budget to better reflect student interest.

Both Kwon and Dominguez plan to engage with students more directly with town-hall-type meetings at convenient locations and times on campus.

**Executive Vice President**  
Though Alana Lim is running on the same ticket as Dominguez, he and Mirkazemi both spoke overwhelmingly about advocating for students and connecting our campus to the community, and because of this, may make a better pairing on the ASI board.

Lim echoed the goals Dominguez proposed and seemed the more social component to Dominguez's political candidacy.

Mirkazemi, on the other hand, is the full package.

She has the experience, confidence and willingness to critique the current inner workings of ASI to make them more student-accessible.

Her proactive attitude made many on staff wonder why she was not running for ASI president herself.

She seems the type to not be overshadowed by Dominguez's politically dominating presence.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### The Runner Crossword Contest!

Complete the crossword below and bring it to The Runner Office in Modular 3 to be entered in our drawing.



Created with TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

**Across**

- 4. Mayoral candidate who sparked controversy over LGBTQ response.
- 6. ASI presidential candidate endorsed by The Runner.
- 7. CSUB University Police Chief
- 9. Nicole Mirkazemi's top priority to have amongst her peers.
- 10. CSUB wrestling coach who resigned to coach at Boise State University
- 12. 'Hunger Games' actor endorsing Bernie Sanders at the Jastro Park rally.

**Down**

- 1. Type of meeting style both Kwon and Dominguez plan to utilize to engage with students more directly.
- 2. Former U.S. president who visited Cesar E. Chavez High School.
- 3. Alana Lim values dedication to community engagement through \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. Senior softball player who got three hits
- 8. The person who proposed the technology fee increase.
- 11. CSUB club that hosted the Bakersfield Mayoral Debate on May 19th



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SOFTBALL

# Historic season ends

By Syleena Perez  
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield made it to its first ever NCAA Division I Regional, but were unable to advance after losing in an elimination game on Saturday against Fresno State at Easton Stadium in UCLA.

The Roadrunners (16-34) battled to advance in the tournament but errors and walks proved costly as they fell short against the Bulldogs, 8-5.

“The first inning we came out and gave them four errors, which led to three runs and put us definitely behind the eight ball. But I thought we responded extremely well,” said CSUB coach Crissy Buck-Ziegler.

CSUB committed five errors in total and walked six batters the entire game.

The Bulldogs got runners on base early and scored three runs in the first inning, but only one was an earned run from CSUB’s senior pitcher Amber Mills.

The Roadrunners were able to respond in the second inning. With two runners on base and two outs, senior Alex Simmons dropped a short single into right field driving both runners home and cut the lead to 3-2.

“Every pitch I kept thinking, ‘this might be my last game,’ so just keeping it out all on the field,” said Simmons.

Mills pitched 2.1 innings before being pulled from the mound after Fresno State’s senior Alyssa Villalpondo hit a home run to start the third inning and allowed two more batters to get on base.

The Roadrunners brought on



Alejandra Flores/The Runner

**Freshman Alyssa Stockton winds up to deliver a pitch in 8-5 loss against Fresno State at Easton Stadium on May 21.**

freshman Alyssa Stockton to pitch in relief.

However, Stockton walked the first batter and gave up a three-run double to push the Bulldogs’ lead 7-2.

Fresno State added another run in the fourth inning.

A sacrifice fly ball pushed the lead to 8-3 but with the bases loaded, Stockton and the defense got out of the jam.

The Roadrunners responded back and cut into the lead in the fifth inning.

Junior Selena Gonzalez hit an RBI double into the left-center gap to bring Simmons in, and sophomore pinch-hitter Nicole Curry hit a single to bring Raeber in.

Junior Joanna Larios smacked a single down the middle and cut the lead to 8-5.

“Bakersfield has heart, and that’s what we had to keep

showing is how much heart we had,” said Buck-Ziegler. “I told them that the easy road would be to just give up and get run-ruled. We took the hard road and kept fighting until the seventh. That’s all I’ve ever asked of this team.”

However, Fresno State then brought in freshman Kamalani Dung in relief of starting pitcher Jill Compton and Dung shut the door on CSUB’s rally.

Compton (25-6) earned the win for Fresno State and Dung was credited with her second save of the year.

Stockton said she is excited for the future of the program.

“I’m planning to go this summer and train my butt off and come next season, have huge expectations for this team: for my offense, for my defense, for my coaches and for myself especially,” said Stockton.

WRESTLING

# Wrestling coach moves to Boise State

By Julie Mana-Ay Perez  
Multimedia Editor

CSU Bakersfield wrestling coach Mike Mendoza resigned from his position on Friday and has agreed to take the head coach job at Boise State University.

After working at CSUB for over 14 years, Mendoza decided to depart from his alma mater and join the Broncos as head coach for their wrestling team.

He met with Boise State on May 16 for the position.

Mendoza has served as CSUB head coach for six years, after previously acting as assistant coach for eight years and wrestling as a CSUB student for five years (1996 to 1999).

The decision to leave CSUB was bittersweet for Mendoza and leaving his team was the hardest part.

“It’s something I didn’t want to do. I don’t like doing it,” said Mendoza. “The hardest part of leaving this program is leaving these guys and... leaving the relationship with the community.”

CSUB redshirt-senior wrestler Reuben Franklin isn’t worried for the wrestling program and believes Mendoza made the right choice by accepting the head coach position.

“Frankly, Mendoza is making a good move,” said Franklin. “He is going to be able to focus on coaching and developing

good wrestlers rather than worry about keeping our program alive.

“He’ll be at a school that will enable him to reach his potential, whereas at Bakersfield he does not have all the tools that should be available to him.”



Photo by  
gorunners.com.

Franklin credited the good people associated with the wrestling for its success.

“Mendoza cultured quality men, not just quality wrestlers, and if the new head coach maintains the expectations Mendoza had, the program will continue to grow and

have success, despite a lack of resources,” said Franklin.

Mendoza is unsure as to what his timeline here at CSUB is but is expecting the transition of moving over to happen within the next few weeks.

Mendoza assured that the search for a new head coach would begin immediately and that the program won’t just be abandoned.

“This program won’t be left with nobody here, and the door locked,” said Mendoza, who added that an interim coach would likely be hired before finding a new coach for the position.

Although Mendoza is emotional about having to leave his team at CSUB, he also feels excited for the new opportunity and is ready to embrace the change that comes with it.

“I think any time you have a

change in atmosphere, you’re going to grow and change from it,” said Mendoza. “I’ll be stressed in other ways as a coach. Anytime you change your environment, you’re going to grow, so I expect it to be a growing experience.”

CSUB Athletics Director Kenneth Siegfried said he thinks this will rally the supporters to fund the program.

“Mike’s unbelievable,” said Siegfried. “He’s going to be missed and he did a great job, but I have been upfront with our supporters and they are ready to keep moving this program forward.”

“I think it’s going to ignite it. Not from a competitive standpoint, but from getting the program completely funded, which is what we would love to do and the community seems to be behind us.”

“Mendoza cultured quality men, not just quality wrestlers, and if the new head coach maintains the same expectations Mendoza had, the program will grow and have success despite a lack of resources.”

Reuben Franklin,  
former CSUB wrestler

# WHAT IS OPEN UNIVERSITY?

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