

THE RUNNER

California State University, Bakersfield

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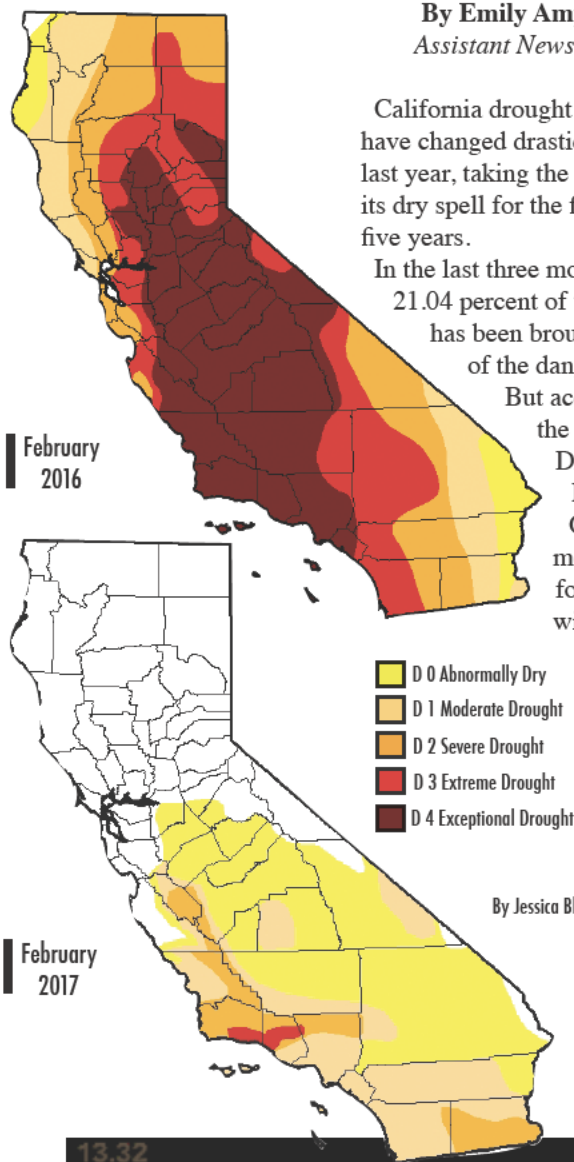
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THE BIG STORY

DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS REMAIN AMID FREQUENT STORMS



By Emily Amparan
Assistant News Editor

California drought conditions have changed drastically in the last year, taking the state out of its dry spell for the first time in five years. In the last three months alone, 21.04 percent of the state has been brought out of the danger level. But according to the National Drought Mitigation Center, most of California is still within the

By Jessica Blunder NCEI/NOAA

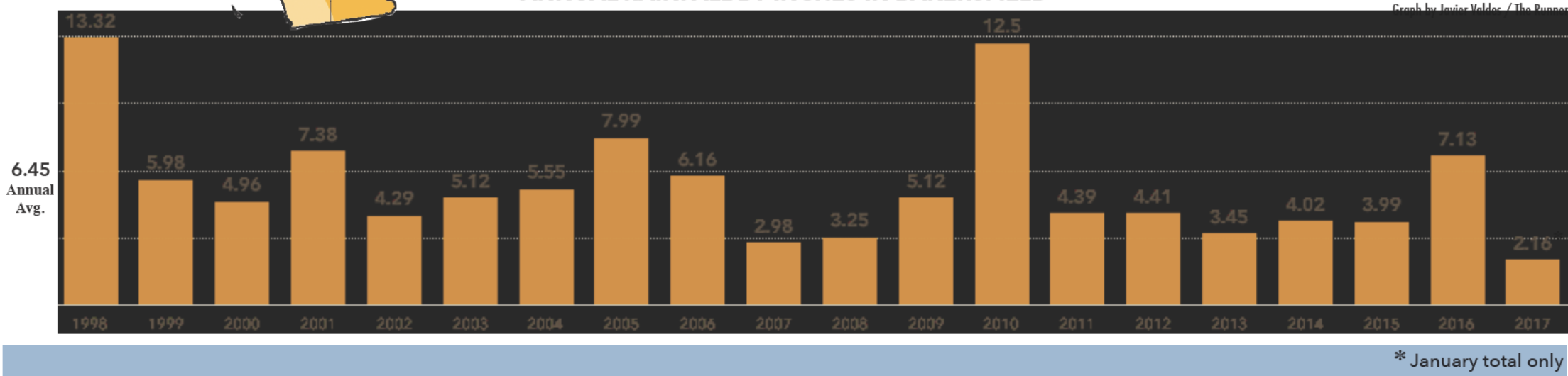
‘abnormally dry’ and ‘moderate drought’ levels. The mass amounts of rain have brought many of California’s rivers, reservoirs and dams to the brink of spilling over. And in the extreme case of Oroville, with the rains causing the dam to overflow, the emergency spillway was deployed. The use, which created massive damage to the length of the spillway, is expected to cause millions of dollars in repairs. With the rising water levels, surface water has more than doubled with recent weather. Records from the United States Geological Survey say that most streamflow is ranked between 76 to 90 percent over normal capacity. Despite all the weather that California has been receiving, California’s groundwater is still at record lows. Groundwater is an essential aspect for determining the state of the drought, which is recorded here on the CSU Bakersfield campus. According to Dirk Baron, the

chair of the geology department, CSUB has been keeping yearly records of the wells that have been around campus since the 1950s. And that does not change this year. On Feb. 21, students made their way out to these wells to collect data on their elevation. “It’s dropped over 100 feet, maybe 120 feet or so during the last few years during the drought, and that’s going to take a lot of time to recover,” said Baron. Another essential aspect to the status of the drought is the snowpack gathered in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range, which provides 30 percent of the water used by California, according to USGS. The runoff created from the snowpack will be measured on April 1 to gain a better understanding of the winter water’s effects on California. Until the surface water, groundwater and snowpack are all back to normal levels or above, California will remain in its drought, which is the reason for the state’s decision

to keep the water restrictions and regulations in place from last year. For the City of Bakersfield, this required a usage under 13 percent of the 87.313 billion gallons used in 2013 as approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. This allowed the city some ease, for their previous requirement was to use under 36 percent of the water consumed in 2013. “Last year, when the restrictions were eased, were able to maintain about a 21 percent reduction,” said Facilities Management Vice President Patrick Jacobs on CSUB’s own water usage. Jacobs and his team have worked hard to change their practices on how to conserve water on campus, such as investing in a computerized central irrigation system, which adjusts its water usage based on daily weather. The additions of artificial turf along walkways and drought-friendly landscaping about campus have also contributed to water conservation.

With the announcement of more water-safe plants on campus, Jacobs also said that even when the restrictions lift, they will still be able to maintain their 20 percent usage. At 0.91 cents and 232 gallons of water used per one hundred cubic feet CSUB spent about \$211,000 on water, saving the school about \$64,000 last year alone. As rain continues to fall on CSUB students, there is still the strong opinion of CSUB students that water should continue to be conserved by all California residents. “Just because we have water now doesn’t mean that we shouldn’t save it,” said first-year student Melissa Davis. Davis further expressed her support of the extended restrictions with the idea of preserving water in case of another dry year. While the great amount of rain that California and Bakersfield have been receiving may not mean that the drought is over, it is a step towards replenishing the state in the years to come.

ANNUAL RAINFALL BY INCHES IN BAKERSFIELD



CAMPUS

Professor under investigation not teaching this semester

By Esteban Ramirez
Senior Staff Writer

Communications professor Elizabeth Jackson, who has been teaching at CSU Bakersfield for the past 27 years, is not teaching any classes this semester. This past November, The Runner reported CSUB communications major Shad Williams, 25, filed a complaint of retaliation against Jackson for the video “Teaching While Black,” which she posted on YouTube in September. In the video, she discussed in a spoken-word-poetic-rap format what it is like teaching while black and talked about institutional racism and individual incidents when students filed complaints against her.

Williams said Jackson attempted to appeal the complaint of retaliation but was denied. “She tried to appeal the CSU findings that she was guilty of retaliation toward a student, and the CSU denied her appeal,” Williams said. “I can only assume that the reason why she is absent from teaching is because it’s a part of her [action].” The Runner attempted to contact Jackson through email and phone, but she wasn’t available to comment on the appeal. On the course schedule for spring 2017, Jackson is not listed as the professor for any class. According to Communications Department Chair Judith Pratt, some classes were canceled this semester.

Pratt stated in an email one section of negotiations was canceled. Two sections of film and society were canceled, but communications professor Mary Slaughter is teaching art of film, which Pratt states is a substitute for film and society. Film and society is normally taught by Jackson, most recently last semester. Another course Jackson normally teaches is intercultural

communication but that class was not canceled. Instead it is currently being taught by communications lecturer Chris Cruz-Boone. Cruz-Boone stated in an email she was asked to teach the course without any context provided regarding the previous instructor of record. CSUB administrators have not confirmed or denied whether the complaint is the reason why Jackson is

“From what I collected, she’s no longer teaching this term. I don’t know the estimate of her arrival or even if there is an arrival for her to come back.”

Shad Williams,
CSUB alumnus

not teaching any classes this semester. Williams said he was told by a CSUB administrator, who he chose not to name, to check the courses to find out if Jackson was teaching this semester but the administrator did not say why Jackson was not teaching. “From what I collected, she’s no longer teaching this term,” he said. “I don’t know the estimate of her arrival or even if there is an arrival for her to come back.” Williams said he has been dismissed out of the whole situation because it is now between Jackson and the campus. CSUB’s Vice Provost David Schecter said he could not discuss it because it was a personnel matter. The Interim Dean of Arts and

Humanities Liora Gubkin stated the same in an email. The Runner sent a public records act request to Director of Public Affairs and Communications Michael Lukens, but he replied that the school is unable to comply with the request, due to Government Code Section 5254. He said the code states the school can’t disclose personnel, medical or similar files since it would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. California Newspaper Publisher’s Association Legal Counsel Nikki Moore said the rule is that an agency has the right to refuse disclosure to keep information confidential because it would be an unwarranted invasion of privacy. See JACKSON, Page 2

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ASI aims to create unbiased board

By Devon Halsell
Features Editor

Associated Students Inc. proposed various changes to its bylaws in the Feb. 16 board of directors meeting.

The proposed changes consist of creating a third branch of government, renaming multiple positions, eliminating five director positions and adding nine new positions.

The third branch of student government is the Judicial Affairs Council, which would provide a neutral committee in ASI, that ensures the board follows its bylaws and making sure funds are going to the correct items.

ASI President Alex Dominguez said that the executive directors looked at the executive vice president position and realized the position had the potential for bias.

Dominguez used a hypothetical to describe how a position such as the executive vice president has the possibility for bias.

He said if there was a problem between the executive vice president and another member of the board the executive vice president could remove that member even if it was unwar-

ranted. “We wanted to take it out of the hands of one executive and put it to a council, and that’s one of the big reasons why we [thought of] the Judicial Affairs Council,” said Dominguez.

The council will be comprised of four justices and a chief justice, who will be voted in amongst the council.

ASI will take no part in the voting of the chief justice because it will be an internal matter.

ASI will vote on the Judicial Affairs Council at its March 3 meeting.

Along with adding the Judicial Affairs Council, the proposed bylaw changes would add four new director positions: Director of Student Athlete Relations, Director of Greek Relations, Director of Housing Student Relations and Director of International Student Relations.

By adding those new positions, large student body organizations will receive better representation, according to ASI.

Five ASI director positions will be eliminated if the bylaw changes take effect. Director of Corporate Structure, Director of Facilities and Commercial Services, Director of Campus



Simer Khurana /The Runner

The ASI Board of Director gathers for their weekly board meeting to discuss their current agenda on Friday, Feb. 17.

Pride, Lower Division Director and Upper Division Director are the five that would be eliminated.

“It’s really the overall task of the ASI to do that, not just one position,” said Dominguez on the positions being removed.

There will also be a school council, which will consist

of all the directors from the schools around campus. The council will be chaired by the vice president of university affairs.

The council will ensure that all student voices will be heard.

ASI voted in senior political science major Michael Esqueda as its director of legislative af-

fairs. Esqueda will be working closely will ASI President Alex Dominguez to shape the director’s duties for future directors of legislative affairs.

“I’ll be honest, me and Michael don’t agree on a lot when it comes to politics, but I think all of you would agree that that’s what I need,” said

Dominguez of Michael Esqueda becoming the new Director of Legislative Affairs.

Esqueda will be sworn in during next week’s meeting.

ASI meets every Friday for its weekly board of directors meeting from 3:15 to 5 p.m. at ITV Studio Center C.

FACULTY

Subject of complaint not teaching this spring semester

[JACKSON, Page 1]

However, Moore said when the instances of misconduct are acted upon on an individual, such as a suspension or a firing, she said there is a right to that information, and release would not be an unwarranted invasion of privacy.

Therefore, if Jackson has been suspended for this semester or even fired, it would not be an invasion of privacy for the school to release the information.

Student Press Law Center Executive Director Frank LoMonte stated in an email to The Runner as long as there is any element of public concern involved in the firing of a state employee, there should be no legal reason the agency can’t discuss the removal.

Additionally, if the discipline has to do with the performance of official duties, then it is not an invasion of privacy.

For example, in 2005, former Jefferson High School principal Norman K. Morrow filed a lawsuit against the Los Angeles Unified School District for claiming the employer invaded his privacy by discussing the reason for his firing with The Los Angeles Times.

The court threw out his claims and ruled in favor of the school district.

The case stated the plaintiff

had to prove public disclosure of a private fact, which would be offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person, and which is not of legitimate public concern.

Morrow stated to the court of appeal that the district not only invaded his privacy but defamed him as well.

The court found the challenged statements made by the district were constitutionally protected, revealed no private information and the trial court did not abuse its discretion in making its evidentiary rulings or in ordering attorney fees.

LoMonte said if the reason the person is no longer teaching is due to health issues and they’re not a very prominent authority figure, then the college really can’t get into those private details.

But if it concerns, performance of official duties, then discussing those details is not out of line.

As the investigation for Jackson continues, more information will be provided when it becomes available.

“I am still anticipating the end result to see what CSUB really does,” Williams said. “From there, then I can make my decision of how I move forward when I see how the campus actually handles the situation.”

HEALTH

Student Health Center offers plenty of services

By Breanna Hunczak
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield students have the Student Health Center, but most do not use this facility because the students are unaware of the services it offers. The Student Health Center does not accept health insurance, but their prices are affordable for the students.

Andrea Chavez, a senior, said, “If I knew exactly what they offered and the prices. I would definitely take advantage of this, because I currently don’t have health care.”

The Student Health Center offers basic services, which include HIV testing, X-rays, laboratory testing, birth control, health education programs and first aid treatment for emergencies on campus.

The Student Health Center, however, does not provide any emergency services or care for chronic or long-term injuries.

CSUB includes a campus fee for the Student Health Center in the student tuition. Students have to pay \$296 per academic year even if they do not use the services from the Student Health Center.

“We pay for the Student Health Center, and they don’t promote it on campus. Like as

students, we sometimes don’t seek help or get tests done because we fear there will be expenses,” said freshman Israel Leana. “They should make the students more aware of the things they offer, prices, and be welcoming. Right now, students are left in the dark and don’t even know about the Student Health Center.”

There is also a pharmacy located in the Student Health Center which provides medicine to students at a very low price and can refer students out if the pharmacy does not carry a medication.

Sophomore Viviane Ferrel said, “The Student Health Center pharmacy was cool, and everyone there was friendly.”

The Student Health Center offers green cards to students who need them. The student can just go in and fill out a brief application at the first desk. This green card will cover all reproductive and family-planning needs.

The Student Health Center takes walk-in and scheduled appointments. They are open Monday-Friday 8 am to 5 pm with the exception of their staff meeting, which is the first Thursday of the month from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Complete exam for job/school/sports/etc	\$35.00
DMV Physical	\$45.00
Limited physical exam for education clearances, etc.	\$20.00
Pap Smear	\$25.00
EKG for employment or school, not for illness	\$25.00
CBC or Hgb/Hct	\$15.00
Urine pregnancy test	\$10.00
Serum pregnancy test	\$10.00
Handling fee for "send out" lab tests	\$10.00
HIV test- confidential	\$8.00
STI Testing	Varies
Chest X-ray	\$25.00
Lumbar spine X-ray	\$35.00
Each x-ray study done in the SHS will have an additional fee added for off-campus reading	\$15.00
Tuberculosis (TB) skin test for class/job, not illness	\$20.00
Pharmacy costs vary by prescription- see Pharmacist	Varies
Diphtheria/Tetanus	(Td=\$35.00) (Tdap=\$50.00)
Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)	\$70.00
Hepatitis A vaccine (each dose, series of 2)	\$35.00
Hepatitis B vaccine (each dose, series of 3)	\$45.00
Influenza vaccine (October/November)	\$20.00
Meningococcal vaccine	\$130.00
Depo Provera (contraceptive)	\$90.00
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) (each dose, series of 3)	\$165.00
Rocephin (antibiotic) cost depends on dose	Varies
Others as ordered by physician (injections or immunizations)	Varies

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SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

THE RUNNER

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Send letters to therunner.online@gmail.com. All letters must be signed and verified and be no more than 300 words in length. Letters may be edited for clarity and length.

ABOUT

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CAMPUS

CSUB builds for future



Construction of the humanities office is located near the arts building and it is expectd to be finished by fall of 2017.

By Sonia Lemus
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield has been working on two very important projects that staff and students can expect to see very soon. The edible garden project, the humanities office and classrooms project. Jennifer Sanchez, the Sustainability Coordinator at CSU Bakersfield, says the next step in the edible garden project is making an irrigation plan. “The only reason we haven’t started planting yet is because we would have to have someone go out there with a hose and water it every day,” said Sanchez. One of the most recent tests the garden passed was the kit fox survey.

Biologists came to see if there were any active kit fox dens in the area in which the garden will be located. According to the CSUB Sustainability Facebook page, there were no active dens found in the area, and they can now begin to clear the land. Once the irrigation plan is made and completed, planting will commence. Students who expressed their desire to volunteer can expect to receive emails inviting them to do so prior to the end of the 2017 spring semester. The garden will feature an outdoor amphitheater, vertical hydroponic systems, aquaponics, a kitchen and a study and meditation area for students. According to Sanchez, “The main goal is to feed students,

faculty and the surrounding community.” All of the Bakersfield community will be welcome to use the edible garden, but unlike students, the community will have to pay a fee to use the garden. The humanities office and classroom project is another ongoing endeavor for the CSUB campus. Patrick Jacobs, the Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management at CSUB, says that the offices are expected to be finished by the 2017 fall semester. “Construction has been running smoothly. The only issue has been with the rain,” said Jacobs. The offices will become the new headquarters for the School of Arts and Humanities.

They will also replace the offices in the Faculty Towers building. The Faculty Towers will be tom down once the faculty is relocated to their new offices. There are currently no plans for what will happen to the space the Faculty Towers currently occupies. Once the offices have been completed, construction will continue for three new classroom buildings that will also be in the new Humanities building. The classrooms will be able to accommodate between 85 to 90 students and will be finalized a few months after the offices are completed in the 2017 fall semester. The building will be ready for use during spring 2018.

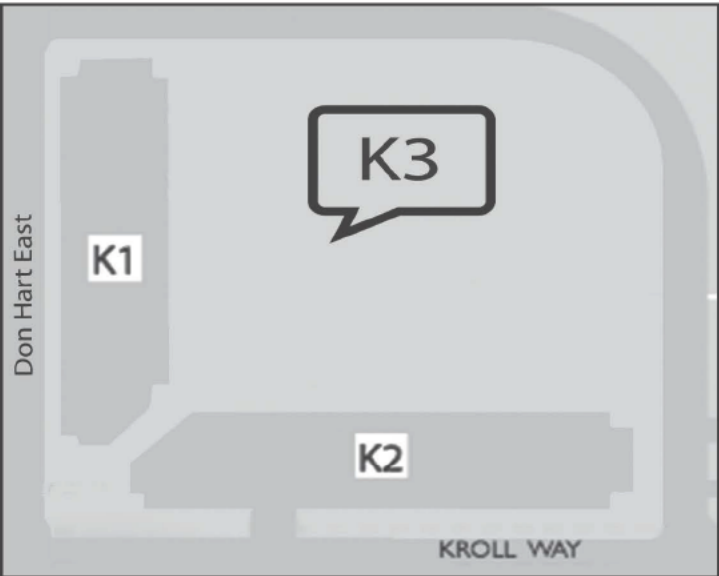
PARKING

CSUB contracts more parking

By Mickey Van Horn
Reporter

A new parking lot is being constructed on the CSU Bakersfield near lots K1 and K2. The new parking lot will ease the anxiety of student drivers who now have trouble finding spaces. Vice President of Facilities Patrick Jacobs said the project for the new parking lot should have been completed earlier in the semester but has been set back. “The parking lot we are working on should be finished by the fifteenth of March, assuming we have no more bad weather,” said Jacobs. Jacobs said the lots were originally intended to finish at the beginning of the spring 2017 semester. Guillermo Arredondo, math major, said there was lack of parking and how finding parking has made him late to class

on more than one occasion. “We should add a little bit more parking lots for students who come to CSUB,” said Arredondo. “Most of the time it gets packed, and people will fight over parking lots.” Jacobs also said that the campus has not decided whether they will have faculty or staff parking. This decision is still being reviewed by the Academic Senate. Luckily for students, another parking lot is being added to the north side of campus. According to Jacobs, this parking lot will be open later in the spring semester near the site where the new Humanities Office Building is being constructed, along with 200 new spaces adjacent to Parking Lot A toward CSUB Way. Students here on campus have been waiting for more parking, and now they will get what they want.



AJ Alvarado/The Runner

What’s Happening Around Campus

FEBRUARY/MARCH

- 22 Rec Day
12-2 p.m. SU Patio
- Teacher Career Fair
2-4 p.m. SRC Solario
- Black Student Unions
Battle of the Sexes
6:30-9:30 p.m. SU MPR
- Local Financial Services
Internship Fair
3-5 p.m. Stockdale Country Club
- 23 ULMS Campus Visit
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Walter Stiern
- Baseball vs. Portland
2 p.m. Hardt Field
- Men’s Basketball vs. UMKC
7 p.m. Icardo Center
- 24 Baseball vs. Portland
2 & 6 p.m. Hardt Field
- 25 Homecoming Pre-game BBQ
2:30-4 p.m. SCI III Lawn
- Baseball vs. Portland
12 p.m. Hardt Field
- Softball vs. Saint Mary’s
1 & 3 p.m. RR Softball Complex
- Fab Lab Open House
2:30-4:30 p.m. Fab Lab Bldg 83

- Homecoming Dance
9 p.m.-1 a.m. Marriott Hotel
- Men’s Basketball vs. Chicago State
7 p.m. Icardo Center
- 26 Black History Month Finale
7-9:30 p.m. Stockdale Room
- Softball vs. Saint Mary’s
12 p.m. RR Softball Complex
- 1 Hijab Challenge
9 a.m.-3 p.m. Red Brick Road
- Hijab Challenge Reception
5-7 p.m. SU MPR
- 2 NSME Scholarship Deadline
- Brown Bag Series:
The Northridge Earthquake & Emergencies Preparedness
12-1 p.m. Albertson’s Room
- Baseball vs. BYU
6 p.m. Hardt Field
- 3 Baseball vs. BYU
12 p.m. & 6 p.m. Hardt Field
- 4 Water Polo vs. USC
1 p.m. Hillman Aquatic Center
- Men’s Basketball vs. Grand Canyon
7:30 p.m. Icardo Center

Calendar sponsored by NSME, Student Union, School of Arts & Humanities, Walter Stiern Library, and the School of Business and Public Administration. To be included, contact moliver9@csub.edu.

CSUB

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STUDENT SERVICES

Counseling Center offers resources

By **Gustavo Reveles**
Reporter

For many students, higher education offers a multitude of learning experiences and opportunities. However, students’ educational journeys aren’t always flawless but present different mixtures of challenges that can potentially contribute to stressors. Stress can affect our lives and make it difficult for students to cope inside and outside of school. Recently, I attended “What’s in your Toolbox”, a 3-session workshop facilitated by Ruth Miles, a counselor and lecturer at CSU Bakersfield. The workshop is intended to guide students and provide them with skills on how to deal with stress and anxiety more effectively.

The first session of the workshop covers important information and knowledge on how anxiety functions in our lives, and how it affects us physically, emotionally, cognitively and behaviorally.

The second session helps identify and filter automatic thoughts in anxiety-triggering situations, and the final session of the workshop brings all of the learned tools together to help reframe our thoughts in positive ways and combat stress and anxiety.

According to Miles, students confront pressure at home, school and work. The purpose of these workshops is to reach out to more students and provide them with tools to manage their stress and anxiety.

According to the 2015 annual report from the Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH), which collected data on 139 college and university counseling centers and 100,736 college students seeking mental health treatment, the most common concerns of counseling center clients were anxiety, stress and depression.

Miles said that the possible risks of unmanaged stress and anxiety vary depending on the degree of their severity.

Some of the short-term physical risks include symptoms like nausea, vomiting, sleep deprivation or oversleeping, and the possible development of eating disorders.

Long-term physical risks include heart disease and heart attacks. Unmanaged anxiety can also impact a person socially, and a student may drop out of school or take leaves of absence at work. Emotionally, anxiety could lead to other issues like depression.

Not all anxiety is the same, which is why one of the primary tools the workshop provides in its student workbook is how to understand everyday anxiety or stress and distinguish it from other anxiety disorders.

Some of the most common anxiety disorders include generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder and phobias.

One of the exercises in the workshop that helps students identify their anxiety is cross-sectional formulation.

In this exercise, students pick a specific situation that makes them feel anxious. At the same time, they recognize their physical and emotional state of being.

The goal is to shift how this process unfolds, because if a person can first identify why that situation triggers anxiety, then he can utilize the coping skills to manage his reaction.

CCMH also identified that about 50 percent of the 100,736 college students in treatment attended counseling for mental health concerns, not taking into account the number of students who were not in treatment.

“Students very often feel like their problems aren’t serious enough to seek help,” said Dr. Michael Harville, a counselor at CSUB.

Unfortunately, students’ misconceptions about counseling often become barriers preventing them from obtaining the necessary guidance and help.

Other misconceptions that keep students from seeking mental health treatment, according to Dr. Harville, include the fear of judgment, embarrassment, social stigma, self-stigma, difficulty discussing issues or the belief that seeking mental health treatment is non beneficial.

According to Miles, there’s so much to benefit from counseling. Students can learn how to communicate as an individual



Julie Mana-Ay/The Runner

The Counseling Center is located inside the Student Health Center building on the north side of parking lot E.

or as a couple, deal with family problems and social problems, or learn how to manage stress and anxiety.

“There’s all kinds of everyday reasons why people come to counseling and are completely appropriate, and it doesn’t have to be severe,” said Miles.

People often think of counseling as a treatment to a traumatic event or a mental health condition, and don’t realize how essential it can become for any individual.

Dr. Harville emphasized how accessible and welcoming the student counseling center can be with a friendly appointment staff trained and ready to make everything comfortable for students.

“There’s nothing scary about coming to the counseling center. This is probably about the easiest group of people to talk to. You just have to be brave enough to make the call and come in, and after that you’re probably not going to have any more concerns. This is something that we’re really good at, and even if it isn’t something you’re good at, we can help you with it,” said Dr. Harville.

Some students don’t know how mental health treatment can benefit their lives, or often

have a low level of information about what services and resources the counseling center provides.

The Counseling Center at CSUB provides a variety of informational pamphlets on extensive health topics. Their website also offers an online mental health screening tool, as well as other mental health tools and linkage to informational resources.

It also provides individual therapy to help students manage their lives inside and outside of school in a healthy manner, group therapy, workshops and couples’ counseling.

The Counseling Center is located in the Student Health

Center Building on the north side of parking Lot E, just west of the Icardo Athletic Center, and across the lawn from Science III. The Counseling Center is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the fall, winter and spring semesters, and is closed during winter, spring and summer breaks. The Counseling Center can be contacted by calling (661) 654-3366. Students can also speak with a crisis counselor by calling the Counseling Center phone number and dialing 2 during the times the counseling center is closed.

Counseling Center Hours

Monday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Counseling Center is closed from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. for lunch.

It is open fall and spring semester, and is closed during winter, spring and summer breaks.

FINANCIAL AID

CSUB offers scholarships

By **Glendy Ardon**
Reporter

Higher education is an important personal investment opportunity. Logically, education costs money, and money is a scarce resource for most college students.

However, there is financial aid available to students who are willing to search for it. This aid exists in the form of scholarships.

Surprisingly, many students are unaware that there are scholarships available exclusively to them through the Office of Financial Aid here at CSU Bakersfield, and applying for these is just as easy as clicking “submit” once a general application has been filled out.

Scholarships are available from each school. Students from all majors have an opportunity to apply for aid.

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships offers workshops to help students complete their applications, and they publicize these using their Facebook page and their website.

The only remaining workshop before the March 2 deadline is for the FAFSA/Dream Act,

and this will be held on Feb. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Walter Stiern Library in Lab 16.

March 2 is an important date to remember, as this is the deadline to submit both the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and the scholarship application available to students through the financial aid office here at the university.

According to Interim Director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, Chad Morris, approximately 600 students apply for CSUB scholarships each year.

According to the “Welcome to CSUB” webpage, the university serves more than 8,720 students. This means that only about 7 percent of students apply for this aid.

In a written response, Morris stated that “CSUB Endowed scholarships awarded approximately \$557,384 in 2016/17 and awarded approximately \$834,321 from private donors for 2016/17.”

Outside resources are available, as well. “Students have the greatest chances of being awarded a scholarship from our institutional scholarship application – they are competing only against other CSUB

students. There are many outside scholarships - students typically compete nationally for those. You may see some of them on our website,” Morris wrote.

Many students are unaware of the scholarships available to them, and some have not navigated through CSUB’s AcademicWorks website: csub.academicworks.com.

When you fill out a general application using the website, you will automatically be placed in a pool of applicants within your major and criteria to be awarded a scholarship. Selected recipients are awarded based on academic merit and financial need.

Additionally, you can search through the website for scholarship programs available and filter the opportunities by those that are recommended based on individual circumstance, those offered exclusively to CSUB students, and external scholarships provided by donors, which are made available to students outside of CSUB.

The March 2 deadline is soon approaching, and there is money to be awarded to selected individuals. Don’t delay. Apply today!

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PROFILE

Meet Jaidyn, CSUB freshman at 13

By Christopher Mateo
Editor-in-Chief

Most 13-year-olds are thinking about graduating from middle school and starting high school.

This thought is child’s play to Jaidyn Conner as she started her first semester at CSU Bakersfield.

According to Conner Jacqueline Mimms enrollment management associate vice president, is working with her to help her ease into the university.

Conner is only taking two classes this semester under the advice of Mimms.

Not only is she 13, she chose one of the most intimidating subjects in the science field physics.

Conner attended school in Bakersfield until she finished fifth grade.

Her father then decided to move to Florida so that Conner could spend time with her mother’s side of the family.

When she moved to Florida she started virtual school, Florida Virtual School.

“My teachers recommended it to me. They thought I was being held back in public school because when you are in a public school you go at the pace of the slowest person. So they recommended I go to virtual school so that I could go at my own pace and go faster than the others,” said Conner.

Conner agreed with her teach-

ers and was willing to find an alternative to meet her educational needs.

“I would always daydream in class because the information they were teaching I already knew because when I was younger I used to do math workbooks. I think I went up to sixth grade when I was in second grade.”

Her ferocious appetite for learning fueled her to focus even harder and she ultimately

“...when I was younger I used to do math workbooks. I think I went up to sixth grade when I was in second grade.”

Jaidyn Conner, 13, physics major

finished grades six through 12 in only two and a half years.

“I got to go at my own pace I’m also a speed [typist] and a speed reader so all I had to do is read the information or take a test or write a paper on it. I went at my own pace so it did go a lot faster,” said Conner. According to Conner her father has been a huge inspiration to her. She admires his dedication to his career in marketing.

Dylan Conner, is Conner’s father and he is very proud of his daughter.

According to Dylan, he knew about his daughter’s aptitude to process information at a fast rate.

“She was very young and we were determined to put the right information in front of her,” said Dylan.

Conner’s ability was not easily attained according to her father.

“It was not a gift that just happened. She worked on it to develop it, she worked and learned. It helps that she is an extreme speed reader it is not unusual for her to check out eight or nine books at a time,” said Dylan.

During her time in virtual schooling she devoted parts of her days focusing on her classes, but this did not mean Conner did not have time to be a kid.

“After that I’d be free, go play games, be with my friends or do homework and extra work,” said Conner.

Now that she is in college she has befriended people from all over campus. She likes to hang out with her friends in Associated Student Incorporated, and the Student Rec Center.

Conner understands that there is a time to have fun and there is a time to take care of business.

Her father has always been adamant in making that clear to her.



Karina Diaz/The Runner

Jaidyn Connner is a 13-year-old physics major that recently enrolled into CSUB and is striving to graduate as soon as possible

According to Dylan, from a young age, he would make work and school fun for Conner, in hopes that she would have fun while she learned. According to Dylan he would keep score and say they would earn points for the work they would do.

She keeps true to this philosophy by making sure she is always on time with her schoolwork.

Her dedication is now playing to her advantage because she has tested out of pre-calculus I

and is ready to start pre-calculus II.

Even with her taking these types of classes he father is happy to see her thriving.

Dylan was never hesitant to let his daughter start college because it was the next natural step in her life and he did not want to stop her from following her path.

“Every individual is on a path and should take the path that unfolds before them,” said Dylan.

This is exactly what Conner

is doing and she doesn’t think that her age will affect her education.

“I think overall it’s an advantage because I can be done quicker. It does affect some things but not much because the academics is really what I am here for and it doesn’t interfere with that at all,” said Conner.

Conner has visualized her life after college and she is eager to continue her education, receive her doctorate from Harvard, and become a physicist.

CAMPUS

CSUB homecoming week returns with a full schedule of events

By Devon Halsell
Features Editor

CSU Bakersfield’s Homecoming 2017 is crammed full of events for all staff, students and their families.

The Runners have baseball, basketball and softball games throughout the week.

The week will culminate with a homecoming and a homecoming men’s basketball game against Chicago State University.

Tuesday, there is the Food Distribution and Resource Fair that will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Lot M.

There is a faculty and staff alumni luncheon on Wednesday in Alumni Park at 11:30 a.m. where everyone can attend and connect with alumni, staff and faculty.

The Student Recreation Center will be observing National Rec Day, where students can engage in activities reminiscent of playing during recess.

There will be jump-rope, hopscotch and other fun activities.

Rec Day will be in front of the Student Recreation Center between 2-4 p.m.

Wednesday is also the last day to vote for the Homecoming court. The voting is available through Runnersync.

The men’s basketball game against Missouri-Kansas City on Thursday is when the homecoming court winners will be announced along with the top two finalists for Homecoming King and Queen.

The game will have promotions going on for CSUB fans.

The first promotion is for community college students, for those who present their community college ID will receive a complementary general admission ticket.

According to gorunners.com they will also pay homage to the 661 area code by pricing general admission tickets at \$6.61

Friday is Campus Spirit Day, which will take place all day

campus-wide.

Everyone is encouraged to wear their blue and gold to show their Runner spirit.

That same afternoon at 12 p.m., there will be a Rising Runner Ceremony where CSUB alumni from every school who will be inside the SRC Solario.

Students will have a chance to talk to the alumni about their journey from CSUB to the careers they have now and find inspiration to pursue their goals.

Saturday, there will be a homecoming pre-game barbecue at 2:30-4 p.m. located on the lawn area between Science III and the Health Center, where the campus, community, alumni and families are invited to attend. Participants will get to enjoy fun activities, free food and a tour of the Fab Lab.

Six p.m., before the game starts against Chicago State, is Rowdy Hour a pep rally to promote team spirit and help

the crowd become ecstatic for the game.

“Rowdy hour is an event right before the basketball game where we encourage students to come get some food, a pom-pom, and hang out with other students. It’s really like a pep rally,” said Emily Poole, the Director of Campus Programming.

The homecoming ceremony and the crowning of the king and queen will take place during the game.

Homecoming week will wrap up at the Homecoming dance.

The dance is being held at the Marriott downtown from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The attire for the dance according to Poole, it is semi-formal, however students can dress more formally if they choose.

Tickets for the dance are five dollars for students, and ten dollars for guests to attend.

Correction

Philosophy professor Jacquelyn Kegley donated \$200,000 to the initial funding of the Kegley Center for Student Success. The amount was incorrect in the Jan. 23, 2017 issue.

In a story about the Women’s March, Jessica Flores said, “I made new friends. I chanted. I marched. I made history. And even though I went to the march by myself, I was never alone.” She was misidentified in the Feb. 8, 2017 issue.

The Runner News Network




Check out our new broadcast to catch up on all of the current CSUB news.

THERUNNERONLINE.COM


Also, find us on social media to stay updated on breaking news and CSUB campus life.

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RUNNER ON THE STREET


By Jonathan Hess/ Photos by Kabria Dodley

This week The Runner asked, "How do you feel about the potential CSU tuition increase?"

Eric Vance
Electrical Engineering
21



"I'm already broke, so it's like they're trying to get some money out of me that I don't already have, so we'll see how we can figure that out."



Shelby Moore
Liberal Studies
20


"I do understand for some of the cost to go up for some classes and paying for lecturers but it shouldn't go up. \$3,400 for a loan and half of it is for stuff I don't even use."

Justin McKinley
Communications
21

"It's already hard enough for students that don't qualify for financial aid to come to school. Whoever is in charge should make it cheaper for students."

Valaya Wright
Nursing
18

"The raise of tuition is not all right. We already pay a lot to try to support ourselves and become grown-ups with being on our own. It would just add even more stress on us as students."



STAFF EDITORIAL

Faculty parking is unnecessary and inefficient

The Academic Senate has brought the idea of having faculty parking to light. We feel that faculty does not need a parking lot reserved for themselves. Students have a hard enough time finding parking lot as it is. Restricting more parking lots will further affect students. If the Academic Senate wants to do something about parking it would be better to demand that CSUB build parking garages not putting more lots further away from campus. Parking should be built up. ASI cannot take a stance without the input of the student body because without the students' voices ASI would not be representing the student body accurately or fairly. Both the Academic Senate and ASI need to be able to explain this concept to students and they need to be able to reach out to the students before any type of stance is taken.

Parking garages would be more efficient for all of the campus. One of the benefits would be that we could start preserving more land for buildings and not parking. Eventually the student body will outgrow the campus and we will need more land to build building and classrooms, if CSUB keeps expanding parking outwards we would become a parking station. ASI was advised to not to take a stance by Patrick Jacobs vice president of facilities and management and University Police Department Chief Marty Williamson. Their advice was to hold off on taking a stance on the matter because after the new parking lots are built parking trends might shift freeing some parking spots. However, ASI did not say that their neutrality on the issue was due to student input.

COLUMN

My exboyfriend is a gay pornstar

By Becca Romo
Multimedia Editor

Breakups are tough, but they're even tougher when you find out your ex-boyfriend is now a gay porn star. I was 16 when I found out my ex-boyfriend, Ezra Finn, was a gay porn star. To be fair, he was already 18 going on 19. But it was still pretty shocking to find out that he had been doing it since he turned 18. Word broke out, and everyone who we went to school with had found out within the span of a day. My classmates and I were all extremely shocked by the news. We all wondered what his reasons were for doing it. Not going to lie, I actually did a Google search for his porn name and watched a video of his out of curiosity. I can't act like I have never seen him naked before. Definitely not my cup of tea, but I had to see it to believe it. The rumor spread like wildfire, and not only did people from our high school find out, but alumni attending communi-

ty college found out too. If he thought he was popular before, then he was definitely popular when his secret came out. Luckily, I wasn't dating him when he began working in the porn industry, since we separated before he turned 18, but I still felt betrayed that he couldn't tell me that he was even considering it. He jumped into another relationship a few weeks after we broke up. He was involved in adult films already when he started dating her. They immediately broke up after he confessed it to her. We recently reconnected through Twitter and Snapchat. We mended our friendship, and we keep in contact with each other. He considers me a close friend since I knew him before he started his porn career. Our decisions led us to the path that we're meant to be on. He's told me multiple times that he doesn't regret what he did, but it has made him into who he is today, and he wouldn't want it any other way.

COMMENTARY

Water conservation is still a must

By Renee Blakes
Reporter

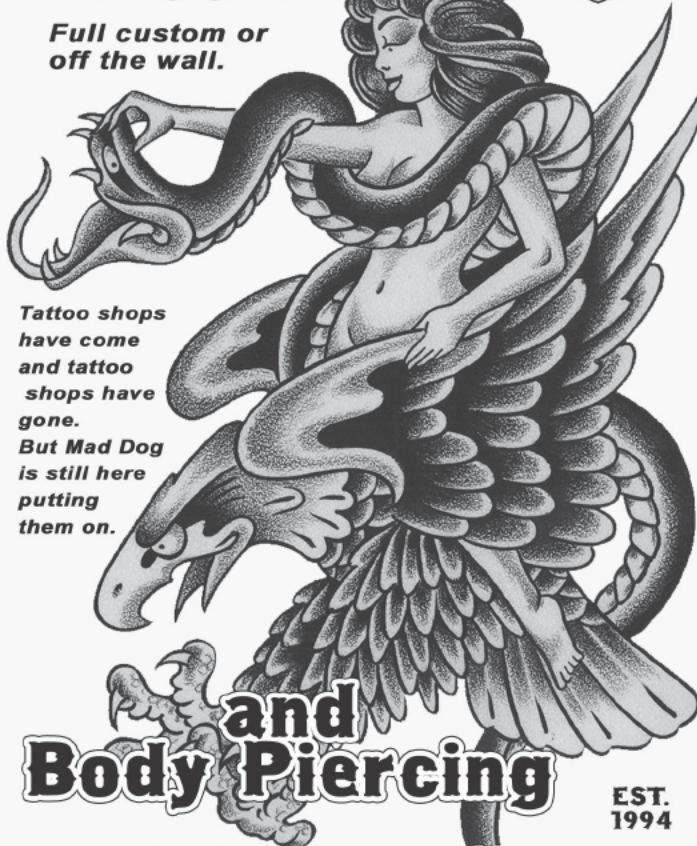
During times of drought, everyone becomes aware of our need to conserve water. Residents of a drought-afflicted area are always watching their water usage. But as soon as the rain comes, Lamont floods, and there's water in the Kern River, they go back to their wasteful ways. California's farmlands require large amounts of water. We choose to forget that one year ago, during El Niño, meteorologists were saying we were going to see torrential flooding. Well, not really, but El Niño was on everyone's tongue. El Nino did not save California. Instead, we got more water restrictions and less free water at restaurants. This isn't so much about water restriction and a look at the past, but it is a look ahead. We managed to survive the past few years under water restriction, so why go back to our old ways? Saving water saves energy. In a study performed by UC Davis, the research showed that between July and September of 2015, the public's water conservation measures resulted in a saving of 460 gigawatt hours.

Some people think that there is no need now to conserve water since there less of a drought. There are plenty of students on campus who wear blue jeans, but little do they know, it takes 2,900 gallons of water to make just one pair of jeans. How many pairs of jeans do you have in your closet? If it's more than one, that's too many. It takes 56 gallons of water for every almond eaten. Since California is an agricultural state we grow food that is eaten all over the country, and that requires a lot of water. Californians drink bottled water, and it takes three bottles of water for every single one we drink. We use water in the production of just about everything, including the manufacturing of bottled water, and even cheese. We must change the way we think about water and how to use it. We need to focus on our daily use of water. Take shorter showers, run a full dishwasher instead of washing the dishes, or even water your lawn every three days. We must conserve water now, or our children will be forced to suffer the same we lived through. We must conserve!

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WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Roadrunners fall on senior day, still third in WAC

By Juan Rodriguez
Reporter

The CSU Bakersfield women’s basketball team let one slip away in their conference matchup against Seattle University on senior night on Feb. 18 in the Icardo Center. After defeating Utah Valley University by a score of 55-39 on Thursday, Feb. 16, the Roadrunners had won six of their previous seven games. On Saturday, CSUB (12-13, WAC 7-4) held an eight point

lead at one time during the second quarter, and led 26-24 at halftime. Early in the third quarter, Seattle U (12-14, 9-2 WAC) went on a 12-2 run to take the lead. Seattle U scored 20 points off of turnovers, including nine in the fourth quarter alone. “We didn’t come out and execute how we were supposed to. We did not play very good basketball the whole second half, and what I mean by that is if you look at the stats, we sent them to the line 25 times, and

they made 22 points from the free-throw line,” said McCall. CSUB also converted only 11 of 20 attempts at the free throw line. CSUB was also outrebounded by a margin of 45-39 on the afternoon. “It didn’t come down to their offense killing us, it came down to second chance opportunities,” said McCall. “They got a lot of those. They had 15 points off of second chance opportunities.” In the first half, redshirt-senior

forward Erika Williams led the way for the Roadrunners, scoring 11 of the team’s first 26 points. Williams knocked down three of her six attempts from three-point range in the first half. However, CSUB did not make another from deep for the rest of the game. Williams finished with 12 points and 6 rebounds. “There is no explanation for the third quarter that we had, except that they came out hungrier than we did,” said

Williams. “It was more of us stopping ourselves.” “I’m going to miss the blue court,” said senior center Brit-tany Sims. Sims put up six points and three rebounds in the final home game of her college career. “It’s bittersweet for me,” said Williams. “[We] wanted to come out with a win, [it] didn’t happen that way, but the love that I have gotten here is something I will never take back. Playing on that blue floor has

become a part of me.” CSUB now has three games on the road to finish the regular season. “We are the team to win this WAC championship, there is no question about it. People play their hardest against us, they slack off against other teams. We get everybody’s hardest punch” said Williams. CSUB will travel to the Midwest for their next game, where they are scheduled to face the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Thursday, Feb. 23.

BASEBALL

CSUB looks to right ship in 2017 under new coach



Peter Castillo/The Runner

Second baseman David Metzgar takes a cut against Utah on Sunday, Feb. 19 at Hardt Field. Metzgar had 4 runs batted in against the Utes in the three-game series.

By Peter Castillo
Sports Editor

The CSU Bakersfield baseball team is hoping to rebound after a tumultuous offseason which saw its head coach be relieved of his duties and replaced with interim head coach Jeremy Beard. Former head coach Bob Macaluso was relieved of his duties on Dec. 16, 2016. Beard will be the third head coach in as many seasons for the Roadrunners. After winning the Western Athletic Conference tournament and clinching a spot in the Division I Regionals in 2015, the Roadrunners finished with a record of 19-37 last season. “The thing that were doing right now is working on moving forward and taking each day one day at a time,” said Beard. “We just want to worry about the things we can control.” The offense will be sparked by senior infielder David Metzgar, who was the WAC tournament MVP in 2015. Metzgar led the team with 47 runs batted in last

season and also ranked second on the team with a .305 batting average. Metzgar, along with senior pitcher and infielder Max Carter, have been named to the preseason all-conference team by the coaches of the WAC. However, the area of concern for the Roadrunners is not with the offense, but with the pitching staff. CSUB struggled on the mound with a 5.79 earned run average. The Roadrunners also didn’t win a game in which they failed to score at least four runs. “We’re asking our guys to do a lot,” said Beard. “Most programs have a deeper pitching staff than us; however, we’re going to work hard to develop the guys that we do have that are healthy and ready to go.” CSUB will be tested throughout the season with a tough nonconference schedule. The Roadrunners will open their season at home against the reigning Pacific-12 Conference Champion University of Utah. The home portion of the schedule also includes a

series against Brigham Young University, against UC Santa Barbara, University of Nebraska, CSU Northridge and UC Irvine. The nonconference road schedule for CSUB is also not very forgiving. These matchups include series against the University of Creighton, UC Riverside and Arizona State University. “Our schedule is one of the better schedules in the country,” said Beard. “We’re at Creighton, and that’ll be a great experience for our guys, to play where the College World Series is at, and hopefully we get to play there again in June.” The Roadrunners began their season by defeating Utah in the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 18. CSUB dropped the next two games. At the time of this publication, CSUB had not yet played its game against UC Santa Barbara on Tuesday, Feb. 21. The Roadrunners will take on the University of Portland in a four-game series beginning on Thursday, Feb. 23.

SOFTBALL

CSUB aims to repeat as conference champions



Alejandra Flores/The Runner

CSUB is looking to repeat as WAC Champions and secure a second consecutive spot in the NCAA Division I regionals.

By Victor Rodriguez
Reporter

The CSU Bakersfield softball team is looking for a repeat of last season, when it won the Western Athletic Conference tournament and earned the program’s first trip to the NCAA Division I Regionals. For this upcoming season, the program is not only setting its sights on winning the WAC yet again, but also going into Regionals and winning, as well. “I think that we [the players] pressure ourselves into winning the WAC again this year more than others,” said junior outfielder Julea Cavazos. “Our standard is winning the WAC, but also winning Regionals and going on to [Super Regionals].” Last season, CSUB finished with an overall record of 16-34 and a 5-10 record in WAC play. The Roadrunners earned a third seed for the WAC tournament and defeated second-seed University of Missouri-Kansas City by a score of 4-3. That set up a rematch from the previous season with New

Mexico State University. However, CSUB defeated top-seeded New Mexico State University 2-1 to clinch a place in the WAC tournament final. New Mexico State had earned its spot in the final after beating Seattle University, to set up a rematch against CSUB for the WAC Championship and a spot for NCAA Division I Regionals. It took all seven innings to decide the winner, home run by then-junior catcher Jo Larios to give CSUB a 1-0 victory for the WAC Championship and an automatic bid into the Regionals. This season, the Roadrunners are looking much different after losing seven seniors and adding six new additions to the team, including four incoming freshmen and two incoming transfers. “We had seven seniors who led this team,” said CSUB coach Crissy Buck-Ziegler. “But our new additions are definitely boosting us in every aspect. We are considered a dark horse, and we need to go out and play

as hard as we can every pitch” Confidence will be a key factor for the program to succeed in bringing home another WAC championship, “It’s something we can work and focus on as a team,” said junior utility player Megan Marcy. “You can see that the players who won last year hold their confidence and we need to take from that.” The Roadrunners opened their season with a record of 1-4 as they took part in the UNLV Sporto Kickoff Classic. CSUB dropped a pair of games on Sunday, Feb. 19 in Long Beach. The Roadrunners will open the home portion of their schedule with a doubleheader against CSU Fullerton on Wednesday, Feb. 22 beginning at 12 p.m. At the time of this publication, CSUB had not yet played Cal State Fullerton. The Roadrunners will take on Saint Mary’s College in a three-game series beginning on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 1 p.m.

ROUNDUP

Game 1
In game one of a doubleheader on Saturday, Feb. 18, David Grotjohn went 4 for 4 with 3 runs scored as the Roadrunners defeated Utah in their season opener. Max Carter racked up six strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings pitched while giving up four runs. Carter also went 1 for 4 at the plate with a run scored. In the bottom of the fourth, David Metzgar lined a triple to the right field corner to drive in a run. Metzgar eventually came around to score on an Andrew Penner single to give CSUB a 4-2 lead. Utah battled back to tie the game in the top of the sixth. However, the Roadrunners took the lead back in the

bottom of the seventh with two runs on three singles and a Metzgar sacrifice fly. Naithen Dewsnap picked up the win in relief after totaling five strikeouts in 2 2/3 innings to seal the win. **Game 2**
The second game of the doubleheader was scoreless until the bottom of the fourth. That inning featured three CSUB singles and a two-run triple by Mark Pena to give the Roadrunners a 3-0 lead. Utah answered right back in the top half of the fifth with four runs of their own. In the bottom of the fifth, CSUB took the lead right back with a two-run single by Austyn Tengan. However, the Roadrunners’

bullpen was not able to hold the lead. Utah scored three runs in the seventh to take a 7-5 lead. Grotjohn went 6 for 8 in the two games of the doubleheader. **Game 3**
In the rubber game of the series on Sunday, Feb. 19, the Utah bats came alive and knocked around CSUB pitching with 20 hits in a rout. The Utes scored two in the eighth and seven in the ninth to put the game on ice. CSUB also committed three errors on the afternoon. Utah jumped out to 6-0 lead in the top of the fifth. CSUB scored a pair of runs in the fifth and sixth to cut into the Utah lead. The Roadrunners’ relievers gave up 12 runs in 5 1/3 innings of work.

ROUNDUP

Game 1
In the opening contest on Sunday, CSUB took on No. 15 ranked University of Utah in Long Beach. Utah’s Miranda Viramontes threw a six-inning perfect game against the Roadrunners while also adding seven strikeouts. It was a 1-0 game until the top of the fifth when Utah blew the game open and knocked starter Alley Stockton out of the game. Stockton pitched four innings and gave up three runs, two of which were earned on five hits and four walks. Utah scored four runs in the fifth and three runs in the sixth. CSUB committed four errors in the game. Alyssa Barrera and Hannah Flippen of Utah each recorded two hits in the win.

Game 2
The Roadrunners faced off against host Long Beach State University in their second contest of the day. Cyndey Curran recorded the only two hits of the day for CSUB as they were shutout for the second time on the day. Curran also added a walk. Summer Evans threw a complete game but was saddled with the loss as she gave up only two runs in six innings of work. Nicole Curry and Kay-lynn Burt were the only other Roadrunners to reach base on Sunday as they each drew a walk. Long Beach State scored its runs with an RBI single in the first inning by Lauren Lombardi and a solo home run in the sixth by Jessica Flores.

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VOLLEYBALL

Grasso takes CSUB to new heights

By Esteban Ramirez
Senior Staff Writer

CSU Bakersfield’s beach volleyball season is less than two weeks away, and the Roadrunners are hoping to bounce back this year with some key returning players. One of those returning players is senior Carol Grasso, who finished her indoor season by doing something no other CSUB volleyball player has ever done — earning the Western Athletic Conference Player of the Year honor this past December.

Grasso, who is 5 feet 6 inches tall, was doubted as a hitter by recruiters. Thus, winning the award was emotional for her, since it proved all those doubters wrong.

“My whole team went crazy, and I was just thinking, ‘Oh my God, it’s me.’ I didn’t believe it until [the award] was in my hands. I was going back to the table, and coach [Giovana Melo] was right there with her arms open, and I just lost it,” said Grasso.

Senior Sydney Haynes, Grasso’s teammate in beach volleyball last year, said she was proud Grasso won MVP honors.

“The second she got it, I could see the emotion on her face. I knew why she was so emotional, and it’s just because she has always been doubted. We believed in her as a team, and the coaches believed in her, and she proved she deserved it.”

For Grasso, her road to winning that award began across the pond in Italy where she was born. She only lived there shortly as Grasso’s family was originally from Brazil and moved back when she was

young. “It was fun [growing up there], and I always loved living in Brazil,” she said. She said she played different sports growing up, but volleyball was in her blood.

Both her parents were involved in volleyball. Her father was a volleyball coach, and her mother was a volleyball player.

Though Grasso’s parents never told her to pursue volleyball, Grasso felt a connection to the sport.

“I tried other sports,” she said. “I actually played soccer and volleyball at the same time, but I just decided to get serious with volleyball. For some reason, I thought I would have more fun and have more love for the game.”

She continued to play volleyball while in Brazil, and met current CSUB beach volleyball coach Cesar Benatti, who was a coach at a different school. When it came time to go to college, Benatti helped her to find the right school for her. At the time, Benatti was running a business which helped athletes go to college in the United States.

“She is very talented and volleyball comes natural to her,” Benatti said.

Grasso found her way to Salt Lake Community College, and in 2013, she played against CSUB Director of Volleyball Giovana Melo, who was coaching her final year at Western Nebraska Community College.

That encounter led to an interesting prediction from Melo to Grasso.

“She said I was going to play for her,” Grasso said. “We didn’t start talking because we weren’t allowed



AJ Alvarado/The Runner
CSUB senior outside hitter Carol Grasso was named WAC Player of the Year for the 2016 indoor volleyball season.

to, but from that point, she said she was going to be my coach.”

Melo said she was coaching against Grasso in the quarterfinals of the volleyball National Junior College Athletic Association tournament. Grasso gave Melo and Western Nebraska fits that match as they lost 3-0 and Grasso finished with 14 kills and 21 digs.

“I tried everything,” said Melo. “I tried to change

what we were doing on defense, I tried to change what we were doing blocking, and

nothing could stop her that day. I thought if she could do this against a big player, then she could play at this level. As soon as I got a job here, she was the first player I contacted.”

Despite putting up 450 kills and 36 aces in her final season at Salt Lake College, she said Melo was the only coach who recruited her as

an outside hitter. She said other schools, such as Penn State, recruited her as a libero or defensive specialist.

“She is the only one that believed in me and said I could do it,” she said. “She liked the way I played and that’s what got me.”

In 2015, Grasso arrived at CSUB. Her first season started off slowly. She said she had to change aspects of her game, and she had a hard time adjusting.

As the season went on, she began to adjust with the team’s system and finished third on the team with 247 kills and seventh in the WAC with an average of 2.93 digs per match.

She said she worked hard during the summer, and with some help from her father, she was ready for this season.

Melo said she was harder on Grasso than most players.

“This year she just blossomed, and that’s when she started to really understand the things I wanted her to do,” said Melo. “As a smaller hitter, she just can’t do the same thing over and over again. She needs to be smart and she needs to be selective. She had to learn when to take certain shots.”

The change in her game led to her having a record-breaking season. She led the conference in kills with 4.09 per match, in service aces with 59, and in points with 489.5. She also finished seventh in digs with an average of 3.14 per match.

“[The coaches] knew if I made changes necessary, I could be the best player in our conference,” Grasso said. “Since the beginning, I came in trusting them and trusting their work, and it happened.”

Haynes said Grasso is a good leader and people look up to her.

“She leads by example. She doesn’t really need to talk to be a leader. She just does her thing, and that’s enough. People look up to her and want to be like her,” said Haynes.

CSUB’s indoor season ended with Utah Valley University defeating the Roadrunners 3-2 in the semifinals of the WAC Volleyball Tournament.

Now, Grasso and CSUB are preparing for their beach volleyball season. The Roadrunners finished last year 4-14.

Grasso and Haynes were a bright spot last year as they finished 12-6 as a tandem. However, Haynes sustained a shoulder injury and is out for this season. Grasso is now pairing with fellow senior Sara Little, who missed last year due to a knee injury.

“I’m really excited,” said Grasso. “Last year was my first year playing sand. It was hard, but it was great at the same time.”

Benatti said he is looking forward to the start of the season because Grasso and Little along with the rest of the team have been practicing well.

“The program is heading to the direction that I want it to be,” he said.

Some other key returning players are senior Jocelyn Rodriguez and sophomore Kayla Tinker.

CSUB is scheduled to start its season against Cal Poly on March 2 at Pismo Beach. This season CSUB is set to compete against UCLA that same day, against Arizona State University on March 17 and USC on April 20.

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Roadrunners sweep road trip

By Joe Macias
Senior Writer

The CSU Bakersfield men’s basketball team continues to control the Western Athletic Conference as it finished its final road trip of the regular season beating Utah Valley University 80-71 on Feb. 16 and Seattle University 51-48 on Feb.18.

CSUB (19-7, 10-1 WAC) had its worst shooting night of the season from behind the arc against Seattle U (12-14, 4-7 WAC) as they made just 2 of their 22 three-point shot attempts.

“It was tough out there tonight, it wasn’t one of our better games,” said CSUB head coach Rod Barnes to gorunners.com. “We were a tired team, we didn’t make free throws, we didn’t make shots but we defended when we needed to defend, we got a big block down there and got a couple plays to close the game.”

CSUB leads the WAC in

scoring defense as they allow 62.9 points per game, which is almost 5 points better than the next best team.

Junior center Moataz Aly helped the Roadrunners to their eighth straight win as he scored a layup with 20 seconds left in the game to put CSUB up 50-48. After senior guard Justin Pride made a free throw to make the score 51-48, Aly recorded a steal on the defensive end to seal the win for the Roadrunners.

Despite the close call for the Roadrunners on Saturday, it was the 100th win for Rod Barnes as CSUB head coach.

“I am thankful to God, the administration and all the people that have supported us,” Barnes said to gorunners.com. “Surely thankful for the coaches and the players that have played in the past to help me to get there. It’s an accomplishment for our program and for our teams that have gone before us.”

CSUB’s game against Utah Valley (11-14, 3-7 WAC)

wasn’t as closely contested as the game against Seattle U, but the Roadrunners had their hands full with the Wolverines.

Senior forward Matt Smith led the Roadrunners with 18 points and 6 rebounds.

“It was a team effort tonight, defensively we played well, offensively we have to do a better job, we can’t have that many turnovers, we missed too many free throws,” said Barnes to gorunners.com. “Grateful and thankful for the win tonight, we’ve got to play better if we want to continue to win, but we’ll get it right.”

CSUB shot only 55.2 percent from the free-throw line on 16-of-29 attempts from the charity stripe. The Roadrunners are the worst free-throw shooting team (62 percent) in the WAC.

CSUB will return home to the Icardo Center to face off against the University of Missouri-Kansas City on Thursday at 7 p.m. and against Chicago State University on Saturday at 7 p.m.

WATER POLO

CSUB splits weekend invitational

By Joe Macias
Senior Writer

The CSU Bakersfield water polo team posted a 2-2 record at the 37th annual UC Davis Aggie Shootout.

The Roadrunners (4-7) opened with a win in its first game against Sonoma State University 15-9. CSUB separated the score as they made five goals in the second quarter to put themselves ahead 7-2.

Sophomore driver Lindsey Paulson got her first career hat-trick in the win.

CSUB was unable to continue its winning ways as they would lose to 11th ranked University of the Pacific, 10-8.

Pacific opened the game with a 4-0 lead in the first quarter.

“We can’t spot a good team four goals,” CSUB head coach Jason Gall said to gorunners.com. “Once we got on the scoreboard, we started to play with better focus. One thing that is standing out is that we multiple scoring weapons. Five of our eight goals in this game came off our bench, so that is a huge advantage for us.”

After splitting its first two games, CSUB got back on track against Occidental College.

The Roadrunners routed Occidental 14-3, as nine different CSUB players were able to score.

CSUB held Occidental scoreless in the first and third quarter of the game.

The Roadrunners dropped their final game of the weekend to host UC Davis, 12-6. Senior goalkeeper Courtney Wahlstrom had 10 saves in the game, but it wouldn’t be enough for the Roadrunners.

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