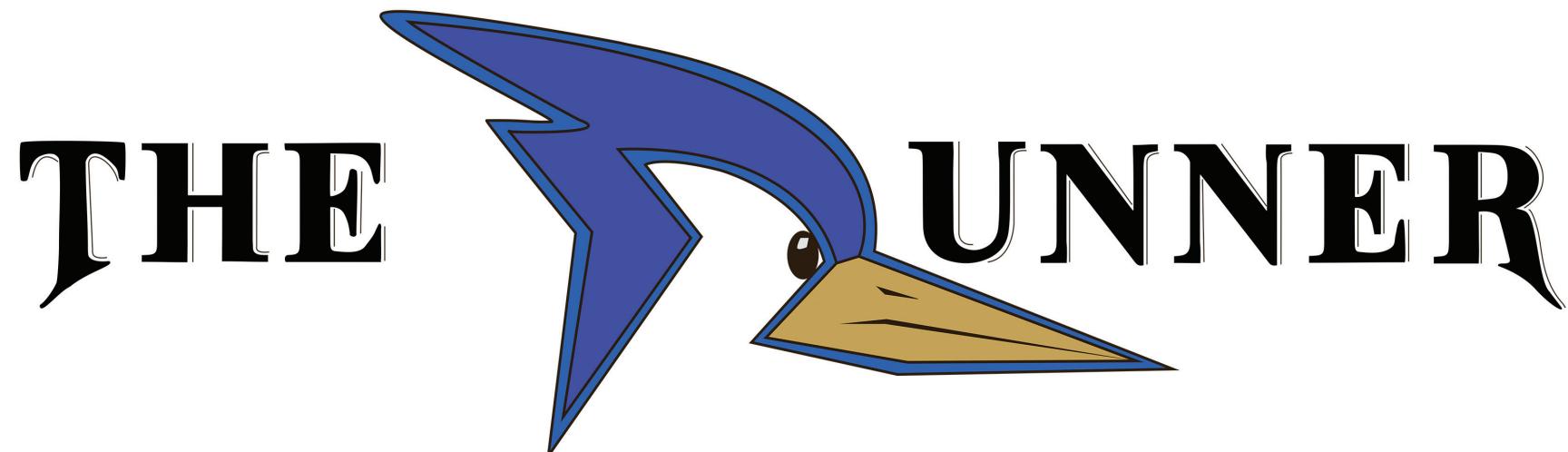


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California State University, Bakersfield

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THE BIG STORY

Mitchell inspires diversity at CSUB

By Runa Lemminn
Features Editor

It was early in the day, and still dark inside of Admissions when Dr. Jacqueline Mimms, enrollment management associate vice president, unlocked the door to let me in.

As we walked through her silent office, Mimms had an air of purpose about her, an air that is common with many of CSU Bakersfield's top black leadership.

Also common among many of the top leadership is the credit Mimms gives President Horace Mitchell, as well as other people at CSUB.

"I've been able to experience the ability to be creative, the ability to create new things. President Mitchell is a visionary, and one who allows individuals to grow, and flourish, and develop," said Mimms.

Horace Mitchell became the President of CSUB in July of 2004. Because of his efforts, CSUB currently enjoys diversity in its top leadership, especially black leadership. Mitchell said his priorities have always been finding individuals who are right for CSUB's campus culture and values.

Individuals such as Mimms and Dr. Thomas Wallace, vice president of student affairs, are just two examples of Mitchell's diverse and inclusive cabinet.

Mitchell's goals include excellence and diversity of staff and faculty - and inclusivity. Even though he's retiring in three months he says there's still work to do.

"President Mitchell is a visionary, and one who allows individuals to grow, and flourish, and develop."

Jacqueline Mimms,
Enrollment
Management
Associate Vice
President

When Wallace was asked what he was most proud of on campus, he had a very humble response.

"I don't really feel comfortable answering that, I would prefer that you ask others, particularly students, that question," said Wallace.

See LEADERSHIP, Page 2

COACHING

Barnes, McCall honored to lead CSUB athletes

By Vincent Perez
Sports Editor

Coaches on campus feel proud to be connected to Black History Month at CSU Bakersfield.

Men's basketball head coach Rod Barnes, in his seventh season, has turned around a team that underperformed 2006 to 2011 (68-105) into a respectable program once again (117-103 under Barnes).

The Roadrunners won the Western Athletic Conference Tournament and made their first-ever trip to the NCAA tournament in the 2015-2016 season. They went on to win their first regular season WAC title and last season reached the semi-finals of the National Invitational Tournament in Madison Square Garden.

And while this season has been a struggle at times for Barnes and his team, CSUB appears to be playing its best basketball as the Western Athletic Conference Tournament approaches.

Barnes began his coaching career

at Ole Miss, his alma mater, where they reached the Sweet 16 in the 2001 NCAA Tournament. He was named the Naismith National Coach of the Year and the Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year for that season as well.

He moved on to Georgia State University from 2007 to 2011 before committing to the men's program at CSUB in 2011.

Just the recognition is enough for Barnes.

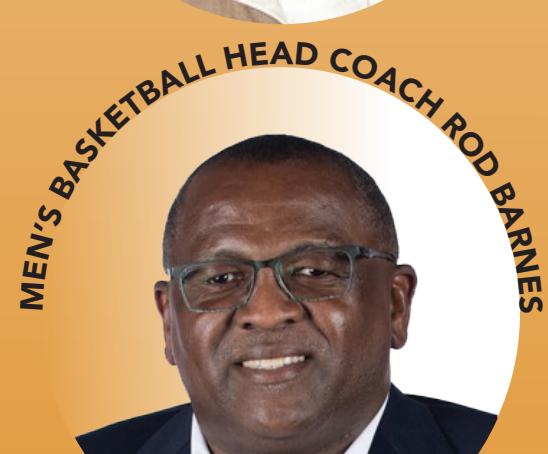
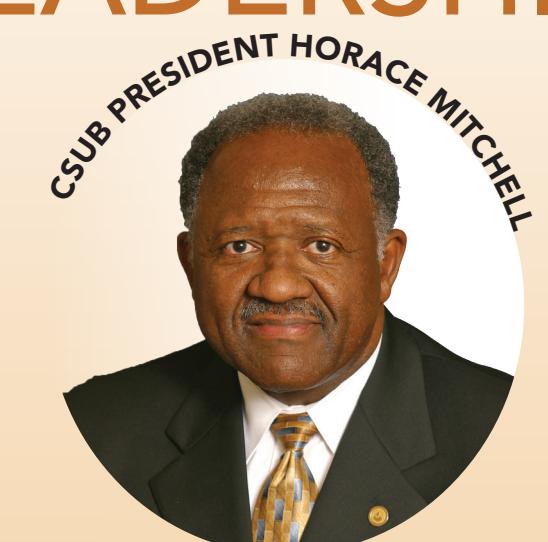
"I know there are coaches that opened the door for Division I basketball [here at CSUB]," said Barnes.

He said that he does not do anything differently in February.

"What I do is an honor to the ones who came before me," said Barnes about honoring black coaches and key figures in black history. "If I do things with character, integrity, quality and inclusion, then I'm honoring them by the way I live my life."

See COACHES, Page 9

LEGACY OF BLACK LEADERSHIP



ACADEMICS

Advising under scrutiny by provost

By Dylan Bryant
Reporter

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs announced that a "three-part process to evaluate and measure academic advising on campus" will take place throughout the spring semester.

This announcement comes after several changes have been made to the advising system over the last few years. When the campus switched from the quarter system to semesters in the fall of 2016, several staff advisers were hired for different schools.

"I think there's a role for staff advisers and I think there's a role for faculty advisers" said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Jenny Zorn. "There's a big role for faculty to have in advising. That relationship with faculty and students is very important. But, there are things that I don't think faculty should have to know... that staff advisers would be able to keep [students] on track with."

But that switch from quarters to semesters, as well as the addition of the staff advisers, is part of the reason for the evaluation.

"We set up this advising system, and then we used that advising structure to help students get through the transition period, so now what we wanted to do is sit back and say did we anticipate correctly that this is the advising structure that is going to work now?" said Zorn.

According to the email sent out to faculty and students on Jan. 30, the process began with a questionnaire developed by the Office for Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment.

"The purpose of the questionnaires is to gather perspectives on the advising function from students, fac-

ulty and advisers. Each instrument has been developed specifically for each [CSU Bakersfield] audience" the email said.

The questionnaire was sent out to staff advisers, faculty, and students in early February. Students should have received a text message with a link to the questionnaire. If they did not receive a text, they may have been emailed the link. It asked students to identify whether their assigned adviser was a faculty member or a staff member. It also asked students if they met with their assigned adviser at least once per semester, and if not, why.

Following the questionnaire, the campus hosted a national consulting firm called the Education Advisory Board (EAB) across two days, Feb. 12 and 13. The announcement states that the "EAB is a national best practices firm with an existing relationship with CSUB. An EAB team will be visiting campus to meet with students, faculty, administrators, and advisers... The purpose of EAB's visit is solely to educate the campus on national best practices related to advising."

"EAB provides more than 1,200 colleges, universities, and K-12 schools with research, technology, and services" said Maanie Hamzaee, an associate director at the firm. "The goal was to listen to and summarize the advising concerns of the administration, staff, faculty, and students. Additionally, make recommendations for potential advising changes that are in line with the goals of the administration and in the best interest of students." The visit will cost the campus roughly \$7,500.

Common obstacles to advising include availability for students, using up-to-date technology, and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of advisors and students in the process.

See ADVISING, Page 2

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Fee referendum goes to vote today

By Peter Castillo
Editor-In-Chief

CSU Bakersfield can decide the fate of the Student Union and new aquatics center this week by voting on the new student referendum.

The vote for the expansion of the Student Union and the addition of a new aquatics center will take place today and continue Thursday, Feb. 22.

Voting will take place on Runner-Sync. Students can access it through CSUB's website by going to Access CSUB.

Associated Students Inc. has promoted the campaign with various informational sessions recently.

"We wanted to give students as much information as possible they could make an informed decision," said ASI President Mariela Gomez.

If the vote were to pass, student fees will rise dramatically.

As it stands, students pay \$468 annually toward a student body fee which applies to both the Student

Union and the Student Recreation Center.

The fee for the Student Union is \$94 annually while the SRC fee is \$374.50.

Should the vote pass, the numbers would cause the total of the student body fee to jump to \$628 annually.

The total cost of the two projects will be roughly \$37 million, with \$27 million going toward the expansion of the Student Union and \$10 going toward the new aquatics center.

The vote will pass if more than 50 percent of students vote in favor of the referendum.

CSUB's Antelope Valley campus will also reap some of the benefits if the vote passes. An increase to the programming budget, upgrades to classroom furniture and technologies and transportation for seven CSUB home athletic events.

An additional 80 to 100 jobs could be created on campus, according to Gomez.

Black Student Union looks to improve student success

By Richard Gonzales
Reporter

CSUB's Black Student Union, a student-run organization, seeks to provide and maintain support of black culture and academic success through extracurricular involvement on campus.

Black Student Union President Dubrea Sanders, a sophomore majoring in political science, offered insight into the purpose of the BSU.

"It is to create a sense of community between African-American students. If you're an African-American student at a school that is historically white, you may not feel comfortable," said Sanders.

Sanders and many others believe Black History Month can become a month of recognized accomplishments that are representative of CSUB's values. The most celebrated accomplishments of university students is the completion of a degree and the attendance of a commencement ceremony, however, disparities in demographics of graduating students remains an obstacle.

The most recent statistical data, provided by CSUB's Office of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment, on graduation rates by ethnicity for the year 2012 indicates that while graduation rates for Black students follow the same curve in comparison to other ethnicities.

However, African-American students are 15 to 20 percent lower in graduation rates over four to six years of degree completion for first time freshman.

Despite these statistics, senior



Harvest Praise Dancers perform at the second annual Gospel Fest in the Icardo Center at CSU Bakersfield on Feb. 9 to honor Black History Month. The event was hosted by Black Student Union.

Kimberly Seward, two-year BSU member majoring in child, adolescent, and family Studies, is optimistic that the newly founded Black Affinity Group, led by Black staff and faculty, will help to equalize graduation rates.

"We now have support and people to talk to who look like us, and will help guide us," said Seward.

Rigorous coursework was not cited as a major difficulty in degree completion by the BSU students that were interviewed.

Rather, Seward said it is about the need for continued guidance offered by the Black Affinity Group mentors, such as advising and student services.

Chad Johnson junior business major spoke about how CSUB welcomed diversity on campus, and how student leaders make an impact.

"Overall the campus community is diverse one, and welcoming to diversity, but I am not sure the administration has had much of an impact as students leaders have," said Johnson.

When discussing the challenges associated with degree completion, Sanders said it could be because they are first-generation students.

"It could be the fact that there are a lot of students that attend this university that are from Bakersfield, and they may be first-generation students without the knowledge or

guidance to make sure they're graduating in four years," said Sanders.

Additionally, Sanders said CSUB's relatively low number of on-campus residents and on-campus events are possible issues.

"While this may be a commuter school, you can still make a sense of community and enjoy your time here," said Sanders.

Sanders and Seward said that they intend to combat conventional ideologies and methodologies in years to come by continuing an on-campus presence through the Black Student Union and the Black Affinity Group.

CSUB experiences interactive play

By Christopher Sanchez
Reporter

Would you be able to look past race, prejudice, bias and class level in a civil case?

Those were the topics during The Defamation Experience at the Dore Theater on Feb. 6.

"These are important issues when we're talking about bias, whether it's religious bias, class bias, racial bias, ethnic bias, or gender bias. We should be unpacking these issues as a community," said political science professor, Jeanine Kraybill.

The Defamation Experience is an interactive play created by Todd Logan, with the intention that people would come together and have an open discussion on the topics.

Half of the audience was comprised of students, and the other half was a mixture of attorneys, judges and professionals in the law field.

Senior double major Jessica Sanchez said she was surprised by the artistic direction of the play.

"The topic is very important and it's interesting that they're doing it in a play format," said Sanchez.

The play is broken into three parts. In the first act, the audience is introduced to the civil case of Wade v. Golden, where the plaintiff, Regina Wade, sues the defendant, Arthur Golden, for defamation.

Wade owns Eagle Graphics and specializes in making legal graphics for law firms. Her biggest client, Lorraine Jordan of Siegel & Karmin, has Wade do pro bono work for Golden.

When a watch goes missing, it is

implied that Golden told Jordan to terminate Eagle Graphics, which is Wade's company. Six months after Wade loses her biggest client, she files for bankruptcy.

For Wade to win her case on the grounds of defamation, she has to prove that Golden gave a false statement to a third party (Jordan), and that she was damaged financially as a result of that statement. Golden would have to pay Wade \$500,000 if the jury found him guilty.

"This is a good commentary on prejudice and racism," said Dubrea Sanders, a sophomore political science major. "These topics are as American as the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem."

Judge Barnes addresses the audience directly. He states that the audience will be the jury for the case. He then takes a vote from the crowd, asking whether they think Wade or Golden is right.

In the first poll, half of the crowd voted that they were unsure. Out of the remaining people in the audience, more people voted for Wade than Golden. After the initial vote, Judge Barnes asks members of the jury and audience to explain why they voted the way that they did.

Because Wade and her attorney were able to successfully argue their case for defamation, Wade won with 75 percent of the vote.

"The risk of being perceived as racist is terrifying," said Micah Nilsson, an attorney at Dowling, Aaron, and Keeler. "It's absolutely terrifying to see this happen in trial. That's why these cases always settle."

ACADEMICS

Students say advising strikes a nerve

[ADVISING, Page 1]

"These obstacles are very common across many institutions nationally," said Hamzaee.

"[The EAB] brings in the expertise of the best practices across the country" said Zorn. "They're going to see how we do it here. That's why they're meeting with a variety of different people that are a part of advising and then I want them to give me feedback where we might be able to make some adjustments or changes, and where we're doing it well."

Finally, the process will finish up with a Campus Conversation set to occur sometime in mid-March. The purpose of the conversation will be to discuss what has been learned from both the questionnaire and the campus consultation.

"The various campus constituencies that participate in advising will have a candid conversation about strengths and challenges of academic advising," states the email.

The email also states that following this three-part process, Zorn will meet with Associated Students, Inc., the Academic Senate, and the Department Chair Leadership Council to discuss the findings and develop a plan to improve academic advising. The Provost's Office also plans to make all findings and recommendations open and available to the campus community.

"There's a big role for faculty to have in advising. That relationship with faculty and students is very important. But, there are things that I don't think faculty should have to know."

Jenny Zorn,
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

For some students, advising is an issue that strikes a nerve. Brian Fasico, a senior majoring in biology, says he was forced to take an extra year of college because of poor advising.

"I didn't know much when I was like a freshman, sophomore, so I would come to them with confidence" said Fasico. "At the time I was a student athlete as well so I'd have to go to two advisers... and I still took the wrong classes". Fasico describes the experience as "a waste of time and money", and says his story is not unlike others he's heard on campus.

Other students simply do not know where to access the advising resources available to them. Isabel Gonzalez, a freshman, doesn't know who her assigned adviser is, and isn't sure of where her faculty advisers are located either.

Matt Nieman, a Freshman, says he hasn't met with any advisers, and has no plans to, "I just figure it out

on my own".

These are some of the issues the Provost expects to be uncovered in this evaluation. "Are [the students] getting consistent advising? That's what I want to see. I want to hear where they might be getting different communications, different advising messages. And so how can we really clean that up so they're getting a consistent advising message?"

For advisers, the solution seems to begin with students taking more responsibility for their own education. "There should only be one mandatory advising held once every other year. This will allow students to take charge of their educational careers and have a plan for the next two years" said staff one advisor of five years, who spoke to the Runner on condition of anonymity.

"Students state that they do not understand their requirements. The catalog has all of the information needed to navigate through your

education including student rights and responsibilities... A popular advising moto is: We Advise, You Decide."

Another staff adviser said students need to speak with more program advisers or attend informational meetings, to see what's available to them.

There are some structural barriers ready to be lifted as well. "There are registration issues that prevent students from registering in classes because of the new general education requirements. Students in the older catalog are not required to fulfill the new prerequisites but the system does not separate the two groups. Transfer students have more problems with registration because their transfer evaluations are not entered or are not entered properly" said the adviser.

For Jonathan Gallardo, a junior, advising seems to be going smooth. His application was processed quickly and he met with his assigned adviser during walk-in hours, who helped him develop a plan and gave him a graduation date.

"I don't want to focus just on the problems because then all the things you're doing right start to erode away" said Zorn. "I want to make sure we keep attention on the things we're doing well."

THE BIG STORY

Students inspired by black leaders

[LEADERSHIP, Page 1]

So I asked Student Union Vice President Precious Nwaoha what she thought of Wallace.

"Dr. Wallace and E.J. Callahan have been the top two positive influences for me on campus," said Nwaoha.

She went on to say that both men have motivated her and supported and encouraged her in her personal growth through leadership roles.

"CSUB has made itself a safe space. I don't feel like people feel that they're in danger here," said Nwaoha. "Dr. Mitchell and Dr. Wallace (helped by) making the statement saying that this is a safe space for all students."

Wallace also felt that CSUB shows a respect for students that is not always shown on other campuses. Wallace discussed how important it was to help others in understanding the value of differences.

"I think we have individuals working here at CSUB that care about each other. They care about students, they are respectful of differences that exist in society and that exist on this campus," said Wallace. "We are stronger because of our differences."

Mitchell also said the values of inclusive excellence and diversity

for the campus help students tremendously.

"Not only in the Cabinet, but throughout the administration, there are significant leaders, diverse, including African American in associate administration," said Mitchell.

While Dr. Mitchell is credited by many for the diversity of CSUB's top leadership, his guidance has benefitted CSUB in several ways. Like most great leaders, Mitchell had a role model.

"My model was (UC Berkeley Chancellor) Dr. Chang-Lin Tien, who was the first Asian American to be appointed to be chancellor of a major American research university," said Mitchell. "He believed in excellence and diversity, and so he had one of the most diverse cabinets, particularly at that point in time."

Mimms, Mitchell and Wallace all agreed that a diverse cabinet, reflective of all races and genders, would be ideal.

"Diversity is one of our campus goals," said Wallace.

Nwaoha sees the benefits of seeing other people of color in leadership positions on CSUB's campus.

"It's nice to see other African American leaders on campus," said Nwaoha.

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IMMIGRATION

DACA Task Force finally in the making

By Alejandra Alberto
Reporter

The CSU Bakersfield Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) Task Force their goals is to create awareness about DACA and the deadlines that students have, specifically with the recent extension of some of those deadlines.

"What we want to focus on as a Task Force is how to get this message out to the students in the most effective way. We did send out a campus memorandum email in mid-January, but we know that is probably not the best communication platform for students. So how else can we promote that information? That's the immediate thing that we want to focus on," said Catota.

The task force recently had its first meeting to discuss the plans and goals it has.

They will begin meeting on campus bi-weekly.

Claudia Catota, the assistant to the president for equity, inclusion and compliance, is leading the Task Force along with CSUB President Horace Mitchell.

"We met earlier this week, we actually just had our first meeting, so we talked about what we as a task force will be doing," said Catota.

There are many campus organizations that will be involved with DACA Task Force.

These organizations are, Student Affairs, Financial Aid, University Advancement, Admissions and Records, Advising, the Associated Students, Inc., Enrollment Management, the University Police Department, Department of Outreach and Recruitment, Educational Opportunity Program, Faculty Representatives and the Walter Stiern Library.

Some of the responsibilities that the task force has are: making

recommendations to the president for policy and service changes on campus, increasing campus collaboration to address the needs of our undocumented students, and making sure they designate information about policy updates. Lastly, identify and effectively address institutional barriers on our campus.

"I feel like the organization of the Task Force was long awaited. I can't wait to see what they will be able to bring to CSUB to help undocumented students who are just trying to get an education for themselves."

Andy Hernandez,
junior criminal justice major

Andy Hernandez, a junior criminal justice major, said he likes the fact that CSUB is finally taking charge in organizing a task force to help students.

"I feel like the organization of the Task Force was long awaited. I can't wait to see what they will be able to bring to CSUB to help undocumented students who are just trying to get an education for themselves," said Hernandez.

The task force is currently trying to figure out how to better promote the resources available to students, and from there they will begin working on more long term projects.



"The immediate issue that we want to focus on... is to better promote the extended deadlines around DACA and also get the word out [about] the funding that is available for students, perhaps through scholarships. For example, through the Mission Asset Fund which is

available through the CSU Chancellor's website," said Catota.

Kimberly Valdez, a junior child, adolescent, and family studies major, said she hopes that CSUB will do a better job in promoting the advancements of the task force, since not many students check their

emails.

"Many of these [DACA] students aren't aware of the resources provided to them, therefore we should try to better promote the advancements the task force makes," said Valdez.

According to Catota, the task

force hopes to better promote this information through social media, tabling, and having faculty members provide information to their students by having one-on-one sessions with them.

What's Happening Around Campus

February/March

21 #OurNewSU Voting Station:
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
DDH Red Brick Road

Teacher Career Fair-CECE:
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
SRC

22 Belay Clinics:
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.
SRC

23 Dream Act Financial Aid Workshop:
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Sci. III 123

CFA Board Meeting:
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Albin Conference Rm.

24 Homecoming BBQ:
2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Athletics - Icardo Lawn

Homecoming Dance:
9 p.m.
Off Campus

26 Resume Clinic-Spring CECE:
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
DDH - Hallway

USA jobs Info Session:
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
WSL 016

27 "The Mask You Live In"
Film Screening & Panel Discussion:
11 a.m.
Dezember Reading Rm.

1 Faculty Lecture Series:
Speaker Jesse Bergkamp
Chemistry & Biochemistry:
4 p.m.
Sci. III 213

2 WSL Health Screening:
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Dezember Reading Rm.

Feb. 1- Mar. 9:
Walter Stiern Library Wall Gallery: Native Peoples' Concepts of Health and Illness.

Fab Lab Hours
Tuesday: 12:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Friday: 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HOMECOMING DANCE A NIGHT IN MOROCCO

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2018
9:30PM - 1:00AM

AT THE
BAKERSFIELD
MARRIOTT
801 TRUXTUN AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS THROUGH my.csub.edu
STUDENTS \$5 | GUESTS \$10
AVAILABLE 2/1/18 to 2/23/18

Homecoming '18 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEB. 16
FRIDAY

5:30PM
ALUMNI HALL OF FAME GALA

6:00PM
BAKERSFIELD COUNTRY CLUB
(FOR TICKETS PLEASE CALL
631-554-3241)

FEB. 17
SATURDAY

6:00PM
BASEBALL GAME VS. UC DAVIS

6:00PM
MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME
VS. GRAND CANYON

6:00PM
ICARDO CENTER

FEB. 18
SUNDAY

12:00PM
BASEBALL GAME VS. UC DAVIS

12:00PM
HARDY FIELD

FEB. 19
MONDAY

12:00PM
CAMPUS CLEAN UP

12:00PM
RUNNER PARK

HOMECOMING COURT CANDIDATES
WILL LEAD THE TEAMS!

FEB. 20
TUESDAY

11:00AM - 2:00PM
STOCKDALE COURT

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

11:00AM - 2:00PM

STOCKDALE COURT

FEB. 21
WEDNESDAY

11:30AM | SRC SOLARIO

(CSUB ALUMNI WHO WORK ON

CAMPUS COME TOGETHER TO

BUILD CAMPUS SPIRIT)

FEB. 22
THURSDAY

11:00AM - 1:00PM
SRC RECREATION

11:00AM - 1:00PM
SRC WEST LAWN

LAST DAY TO VOTE FOR

HOMECOMING COURT

ALL DAY

(WEAR YOUR CSUB BEAR FOR A

CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES)

FEB. 23
FRIDAY

11:00AM - 1:00PM
FACULTY/STAFF/SPR DAY

11:00AM - 1:00PM
SRC RECREATION

11:00AM - 1:00PM
SRC WEST LAWN

LAST DAY TO VOTE FOR

HOMECOMING COURT

ALL DAY

(WEAR YOUR CSUB BEAR FOR A

CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES)

FEB. 24
SATURDAY

4:00-5:30PM
HOMECOMING FAMILY BBB

4:00-5:30PM
CARDO CENTER

4:00-5:30PM
HOMECOMING FUN ACTIVITIES, LIVE

DU & FREE FOOD; OPEN TO

CAMPUS, COMMUNITY, ALUMNI

AND THEIR FAMILIES

HOMECOMING MEN'S BASKETBALL

4:00-5:30PM
HOMECOMING GAME VS. SEATTLE U

6:00PM | ICARDO CENTER

HOMECOMING CEREMONY AND

CROWNING OF KING AND QUEEN

HOMECOMING DANCE

9:30PM - 1:00AM

ICARDO CENTER

HOMECOMING FUN ACTIVITIES, LIVE

DU & FREE FOOD; OPEN TO

CAMPUS, COMMUNITY, ALUMNI

AND THEIR FAMILIES

HOMECOMING DANCE

9:30PM - 1:00AM

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HOMECOMING DANCE

SPEAKER

Journalist reports on tribal health

By Christopher Sanchez
Reporter

In the heated debates on health care, we forget that Native Americans have a right to health care. The United States has never made a true effort to fulfill their end of the numerous treaties they signed with Native Americans.

On Feb. 13, Mark Trahant discussed "Rethinking Native Health," in the Dezember Reading Room at the Walter Stern Library.

Trahant discussed the transitions of his career, the digital age, and Indian Health Care.

When working as a journalist, Trahant found himself unemployed after the Seattle Post announced it was closing it's business. He decided eight years ago to cover healthcare reform and the Indian health care system during the time the Affordable Health Care Act was being drafted.

The Kaiser Foundation granted Trahant a 14 month fellowship that allowed him to write what he wanted.

"I had this flexibility where I didn't have to worry about a paycheck. I could focus on what I wanted to focus on and could give away anything I wrote, to anyone who wanted to use it for free," said Trahant. "That ended up being the perfect tool for the modern digital age. Newspapers were using my material and building an audience larger than I had in Seattle."

Trahant explained the importance of social media during the protests at Standing Rock.

"I like to think of Standing Rock as one chapter in a long story," said Trahant. "More than 10,000 people from across the country saw something on social media and picked up and traveled to North Dakota. The Standing Rock story has been repeating the same story, that water is life," said Trahant.



Andrew Paredez/The Runner
"Standing Rock repeats the story that water is the story of life" stated Mark Trahant on Feb. 13 at CSUB

Trahant used the story of Standing Rock to transition into talks of Native Health. His speech came down to three topics: shortages, excellence, and the future.

"On shortages, healthcare is a specific treaty right for most Indian people," said Trahant.

"A nurse and a doctor will be provided. This has become a metaphor for healthcare provisions. But from the very beginning, from when those treaties were signed, there's never been a United States Congress that has appropriated the money. From the beginning, the United States has really failed on sending that help."

Commissioner of Indian affairs Thomas J. Morgan calculated the resources and the disparity between Native Americans receiving healthcare and those in the armed forces receiving healthcare, right before the turn of the century. He concluded that the Navy spent \$48.10 for every sailor, while the appropriation for the Indian Health Service was a

\$1.25 per Native American.

"I never knew Native Americans had their own health care system," said Randy Kim, a senior accounting major. "These health care issues never go away."

While shortages are always a part of the story, often excellence gets overlooked.

"If the United States wants to learn how to make the national healthcare system work, then they should study the Indian healthcare system," said Trahant. "There are so many innovations that they often are forgotten."

These innovations included a Community Healthcare Representative, tele-medicine, and dental health therapy. Tribes looked at the problems they had and didn't turn to ask for more funds. Instead, they solved their own problems by focusing on the needs of the tribe and community.

For example, in rural Alaska, dentistry was non-existent. They

could not get a dentist to set up a practice. The Alaskan Tribal Health Consortium proposed the idea of training people in their own community to learn dentistry. The program that was set up takes kids right out of high school and places them in an intensive two year program.

"This is a way to lower health care costs, to use mid-level people from a community, who aren't going anywhere. They won't be recruited to a bigger city," said Trahant.

Lastly, the future is still being written for the Indian healthcare system. Healthcare is constantly changing. It needs to embrace this change by utilizing all the new technology at its disposal and employing problem solvers who can look past funding.

"This brought a light to some issues I had never heard of," said Zachary Reese, graduate student in healthcare.

For example, in rural Alaska, dentistry was non-existent. They

BUDGET

Campus upset over tuition increase plan

By Armando Estrada-Rodriguez
Reporter

will happen again if this rainy day fund is not fully available for the downturn," said Brown in a press conference on Jan. 10.

The Sacramento Bee reported that Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) said, "California's budget today is balanced, and it's in the best position in decades to withstand a future economic downturn."

While some argue that preparing is never a bad thing, some question whether the lack of investment in education is failing to prepare where we cannot afford to do so.

Bruce Hartsell, CSUB California Faculty Association chapter president, said, "An investment in public education is one of the best investments that can be made with public dollars, and the CSU is already underfunded to the point that several thousand qualified students are turned away each year, in a state predicted to have a shortage of college-educated workers in the near future."

For now, students can expect to face a tuition hike. However, Hartsell notes that the CFA is not done advocating.

"Until the CSU has a guaranteed funding stream, like community colleges do, our stakeholders will continue to have to negotiate each year for funding," said Hartsell.

Some students agree and see the irony in withholding education funds to invest in the state later.

Niles Parungao, a junior psychology major, said, "They need to be real and invest in our education."

Andrew Avila, a junior nursing major, shares a similar opinion.

"If they have the funds why are they continuing to save? Billions of dollars is a healthy amount. It's not right to raise tuition \$300 if you have the funding. It's already so expensive," Avila said.

CSUB Crime Log

Crimes from Jan. 29 to Feb. 9, 2018

Display on Vehicle/Present to Officer Unlawful Registration

This incident occurred on Jan. 31 at 9:42 a.m. in Parking Lot A. This case is pending further investigation.

Reckless Driving: Highway Speeds

This incident occurred on Feb. 4 at 10:24 p.m. on Student Way. This case was cleared by arrest.

Petty theft

This incident occurred on Jan. 29 at 8:39 p.m. near Runner Park. The suspect had a prior special conviction that was sexually related. This incident was cleared by arrest on Jan. 30.

This incident occurred on Jan. 31 at 5 p.m. in the Library. This case is pending additional leads.

This incident occurred on Feb. 5 at 4:50 p.m. in the Humanities building. This case is pending additional leads.

Expired Registration

This incident occurred on Feb. 8 at 7:32 p.m. in Parking Lot F. Information only.

Vandalism

This incident occurred on Jan. 31 at 11:50 a.m. in Dorothy Donahoe Hall. This case is pending additional leads.

This incident occurred on Feb. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Parking Lot M. This case is pending further investigation.

Great Bodily Injury to Animal Left in Unattended Vehicle

This incident occurred on Feb. 9 at 11:18 a.m. in Parking Lot C. Information only.

Hit and Run Property Damage

This incident occurred on Feb. 9 between 10 a.m. and 9:15 p.m. This case is pending additional leads.

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GO ROADRUNNERS!

PROFILE

CSUB professor researches N-word

By Chelsea L. McDowell
Reporter

Illinois native Rhonda Dugan puts on her headphones and strolls through the campus much like the average CSU Bakersfield student, only she's a tenured professor at CSUB.

After finishing graduate school and getting her PhD at The University of Illinois, Chicago, Dugan said ultimately it was the students of CSUB that won her over and made the decision to teach in Bakersfield easier.

Arriving as a professor of sociology in 2005, Dugan is in her 13th year at CSUB.

As a girl from the midwest, Dugan was shocked when she found California had a different culture to offer than her home region.

"I never thought of myself as a 'midwesterner' until I moved here," said Dugan.

Since 2015, Dugan has been working on research along with colleague Dahna Rasmussen on the topic of whom society believes can and cannot say the N-word—particularly the "A version." This was sociology lecturer Rasmussen's area of interest originally, but Dugan had always had her own personal dilemma.

ma with both loving rap music but struggling with whether the word should even be said at all.

Dugan was able to return to her alma mater during her fall 2017 sabbatical—which is only available to professors every seven years—and further work on her research.

Dugan said, "It was kind of nice to go full-circle, like this is where it all started. And here I am coming back, talking about research to students, who were like me way back when."

Dugan and Rasmussen hope to be able to expand their research beyond CSUB students and interview adults from the Bakersfield area as well as the possibility of going to other regions within the country.

"There's sort of this discussion in the larger society of who can say it and who cannot say it and based on what we're finding, it's not as simple as 'you can say it and you can't,'" Dugan said. "There's lots of layers there and I think we're just starting to uncover that, whether that makes people decide to say it or not, we don't know and we're not trying to make an argument that it should or should not be said, we just want to find out what's going on."

Their research is ongoing and they are now at the writing part. There is not a lot of research on non-blacks'

use of the N-word and that is something that the team is working on documenting.

"There's all these steps that go from idea to paper," said Dugan. "We hope to have one paper done, hopefully, by the end of this semester."

Erica Ortega, a sophomore sociology major at CSUB, was a student of Dugan's. Ortega took her Intro to Sociology course during spring 2017 and she was amazed by Dr. Dugan's ability to teach about complex theories in an understandable manner.

"I loved the activities that she had lined up because they helped you understand the material better and you were able to relate to it more," Ortega said. "Sometimes the theories are so broad and so vague that they're hard to grasp, but she made it to where it's not that complicated because all it is analyzing what happens in everyday life."

Dugan would like students to consider that as an associate professor, teaching is a huge part of her workload, but she also takes on research responsibilities along with service responsibilities on campus.

"Some days it's really hard to maintain that balance, so I think that's one thing that students don't



Photo courtesy of honda Dugan

CSUB sociology professor Rhonda Dugan is native of Illinois.

always recognize about professors," Dugan said. "I think they think, 'I see them in class and I see them in their office, that's all they do.' And it's way more than that."

Hana Qwfani is a junior majoring in English and sociology. She credits her interest in sociology to Dugan.

"I liked the way she explained

things in class. She requires you to put in a lot of work and effort, but I feel any grades or feedback she gives you, you feel like you really earned it," Qwfani said.

STUDENT LIFE

'Black Panther' social focuses on the power of inclusion

Chelsea L. McDowell
Reporter

"Black Panther," the film about the Marvel comic superhero, premiered Feb. 16 to a world enveloped in anticipation. While this was the seventeenth Marvel superhero flick to be released to theaters in the past 10 years, no other Marvel movie has experienced such excitement.

To celebrate the premiere, CSU Bakersfield held The History of the Black Panther Party Social, in the Stockdale room, on Feb. 13.

Dr. Tracey Salisbury, first year professor of interdisciplinary studies, was the master of ceremonies for the event that focused on the

importance of black representation.

"People in the back, helping themselves with chicken and waffles, why don't you come up here and fill in a spot so you can see and hear? Join the rest of the family!"

Salisbury began her presentation. In the heart of the original Black Panther Party for Self Defense, the social provided meals to those in attendance.

The power of inclusion was the key topic of Salisbury's talk.

"I am actually not talking about the Black Panthers and their history, I am talking about the Black Panthers and their connection to the film that's coming out on Friday," Salisbury said.

Salisbury began by talking about actor Nichelle Nichols, who portrayed Uhura in the original Star Trek. Nichols wanted to return to her first love of musical theater, but was later dissuaded from leaving the show by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Her role as an officer, when blacks were typically cast as the help, was too important for black audiences.

Salisbury explained Black people have played insignificant and negative roles in movies for so long, that when there is finally a black superhero that children of color can identify with, in a self-sustaining African Nation, it becomes the most anticipated film in recent memory.

In the Black Panther movie, not only is the lead a black superhero, but the cast is a majority black ensemble as well.

Kelly Dozier, assistant for the writing program and English department, attended the social.

"I thought it was wonderful," Dozier said. "The parallels between past and present are important, not just for the aspect of history, but also for the growth of the people. She only had an hour, but she did wonderful for what she was trying to do. Wonderful, I wish more people had come."

Fabiola Madrigal, a junior English major, was invited to the social by Salisbury herself.

"It really puts into perspective how much it is necessary for this kind of representation, to be included within our media, and for these types of things to be visible. When it's visible, these things have impact ... As a Latina, I love seeing Latina characters on TV," Madrigal said.

The Black Student Union was also present to hear Salisbury's talk about the importance of such a film. They had their own table where they sold movie tickets to the premiere at discounted prices.

"We are trying to get a big group of CSUB students, staff, faculty, we are even selling the tickets if you wanted them for your family members as well, so they are open

to the community, and we just want a big representation of our campus community there to see the movie," said Seward.

Senior business management major Ebonie Seward is the Fundraiser Chair for the BSU.

"From the social today, we're seeing how Black Panther relates to the Black Panther movement that happened in the United States," Seward said. "We didn't know what the connection was but today we got to see different historical figures that made a difference here in the US and they're portraying some of those symbols and images in the movie."

MUSIC

Classical guitarist inspires music students

By Runa Lemminn
Features Editor

As his fingers danced up and down the frets on his guitar, classical musician Cameron O'Connor amazed his audience with his talent and ability.

The performance, held at CSU Bakersfield on Feb. 15, had students, faculty, and members of the general public entranced with the way the musician, through his guitar, communicated with intensity and emotion.

O'Connor, who used to teach at CSUB and now teaches at Oregon State University in Corvallis, treated the spectators to a varied program of completely memorized classical guitar pieces.

The selections ranged widely, including composers such as Bach and Barrios, as well as O'Connor's own compositions.

The audience was comprised of music students from CSUB and Bakersfield College, as well as some faculty and members of the public. While people seemed impressed, the music students were especially so.

Jose Ramos, a junior engineering major who is thinking about switching to classical guitar, said he has always wanted to watch a classical guitar performance.

"This is my first one. It's really amazing the way that it's a lot of emotion and a lot of practice so you get it very smoothly," said Ramos.

Before he played each selection of music, O'Connor spoke about both the piece and the composer, often tuning his guitar while he talked. Tuning seemed to be like second nature to him.

After his concert he described

what happens to a wood instrument coming from humid Corvallis to Bakersfield's dry air.

"You know, this guitar I brought was used to a very humid environment, and I arrived at 12:30 this morning," said O'Connor. "The guitar is sort of like a living, breathing thing and it adjusts, and so probably I spent a lot longer tuning tonight than I would normally."

Guitarist and music lecturer Jim Scully, who brings the musicians in to CSUB, spoke about how fortunate the music students and the general public were to hear O'Connor play.

"At the time I booked him he was still teaching here. He's the kind of artist we would absolutely go out and look for if he wasn't already in our pocket," said Scully.

CSUB students benefit from much more than a concert. Concerts are often free for students.

"He teaches our students for a day. It's some of the best uses of our instructional money, to get new people, different people, international artists to come and work with our students," said Scully.

O'Connor described his day being back at CSUB as wonderful, in spite of arriving in the middle of the night.

"I had a really close relationship with a lot of my students here, and we've been hanging out, it's a great environment here and very conducive to music education," O'Connor said.

Scully said another benefit for his students was the big dose of reality they get with each visiting musician. Becoming a professional guitarist takes an incredible amount of work and dedication.

A performing arts department



Ana Canales/The Runner

Dr. Cameron O'Connor speaks about the music he is preparing to play.

"That's the big thing, see, students seeing what the real world professional guitarist is like. And then they can re-adjust where they are," said Scully.

O'Connor said he worked hard when he was younger to get his skill level pretty high.

These days he said he puts in two to three hours a day of practice.

"There's maintenance work, and you always try to expand that but probably I've become more efficient at practicing," said O'Connor. "I know how to spend my time a little bit better than I did when I was 18, or at least I like to think that."

Scully feels that everyone benefits from having visiting musicians perform at CSUB.

He described the benefits members of the general public get from visiting musicians.

"Go see live art, whatever it is," said Scully.

is in a lot of ways a really distinct interface between the community and the campus," Scully said. "I do think there's an important responsibility we have to be a conduit to bring the community out to see what we're doing, and to bring different culture to Bakersfield."

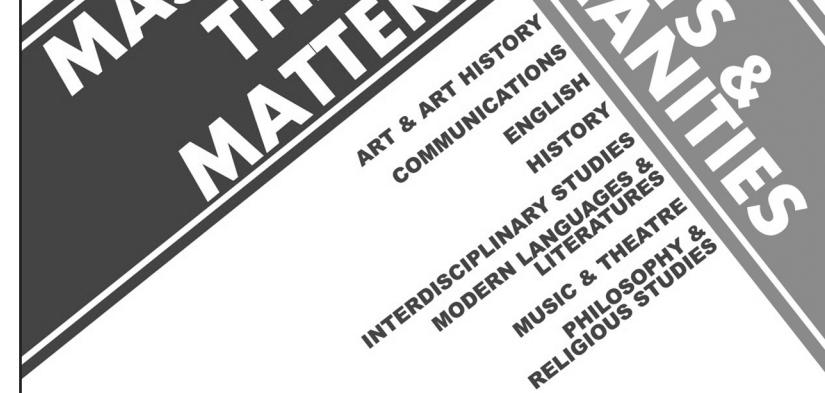
Other local students enjoyed seeing a professional guitarist in action as well.

Aryn Roberts, 19 and a sophomore student at BC, is taking an intermediate guitar class there.

"(He's) way better. I don't know if I could ever get to that level, honestly," said Roberts.

Whether it's jazz, classical, or any type of art, Scully said people should take advantage of the opportunity and enjoy it.

"Go see live art, whatever it is," said Scully.



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African Student Association explores diversity

By Christopher Sanchez
Reporter

Students at CSU Bakersfield came together to have an honest and open discussion about race, origin, privilege, education, and colorism.

The African Student Association hosted Exploring Diversity, The Afro Experience, African American and African Culture: What's the Difference, on Feb. 8 in the Stockdale Room.

"This event is for students to know the differences between African cultures," said Precious Nwaoha, ASI executive vice president and event organizer. "It's open to all students. We want students to know what our culture is."

"Many people do not know the difference from African to African American," said Favour Epuna, junior, international student, geology major. "We have different cultures and religions."

Mohammed Cook, ASI vice president of campus life, asked if everyone would participate in the "Privilege Activity."

"This activity was done at CSU. They did it two years ago. It's become a viral discussion," said Cook.

Cook asked a range of questions about students, their families, race, prejudice, income levels, and various privileges they received. Each time a participant answered "yes" to a question, they had to step forward.

"There's no way to register privilege and that was the point of this exercise," said Cook.

Participants ranged in distance by the end of the activity.

"Privilege is different amongst all races," said Lota Nwoboshi, CSUB alumna and graduate student in social work. "What privilege is in your race is and could be different from mine."

ASA assembled a panel of ten

to hold discussions at each table. Panel members included students, faculty, graduates, and international students. Each panel member paired off and held very honest, personal, and truthful discussions at different tables.

Paulina Sylvester, a junior in business marketing and Bemi Missidimbazi an international student and junior geology major led the discussion on colorism. Colorism is the prejudice or discrimination against individuals with a dark skin tone. It occurs among people in the same ethnic or racial group.

Both spoke about their experiences in colorism.

"Back home we consider lighter more attractive," said Missidimbazi. "This leads to a lot of problems like skin bleaching. Having lighter skin doesn't mean you're better than having darker skin. It doesn't help you, it's just more attractive."

"We hear it too within our cul-



Christopher Sanchez/The Runner

ture and it goes both ways," said Sylvester. "Differences in skin color doesn't mean you're less black. I've been told 'you're not black enough to make that joke.' How are you

going to tell me that? I fill in the same bubble as you do. It's sad that it comes from within."

Cook ended the night with a heartfelt message.

"We created these groups so you would never feel alone. We need to bridge the culture of our backgrounds. Discussion is the first step in forward thought."

STUDENT LIFE

LBGTQ+ hosts gaming social

By Jayson Edgerle
Reporter

The LGBTQ+ Alliance hosted a gaming social gathering on February 8.

Matthew McClellan, 32, chair of the LGBTQ+ affinity described the history and contributions the group has made.

"The Provost recently, about two years ago, started the affinity groups on campus so it's for different diversity groups here. We have been setting up events over the last year and a half to support faculty, staff, and students," said McClellan.

McClellan also mentioned the number of members and the areas of campus that support the group.

"We probably have about 40-50 members, the core group that kind of push and run the programs. We have a mix from all across campus," said McClellan. "We have staff, faculty, health services, mental health counseling, the President's office has people in there, we have academic service people in there,



Health educator Lauren Ash and graduate student leader Jose Lopez start a game of Connect Four during the LGBTQ+ Pride Social

student services, so all different areas of campus come together to put on these programs for students and faculty."

Jose Lopez, a graduate student in educational counseling, attended his first event with this group. Lopez said the group needed more people.

"I think it's a good event. I feel that if there were more people, it

would be better. But we're having fun, just enjoying the day so that is good as well," Lopez said.

The group also provides a safe space. English major Fabiola Madrigal, 23, described the group as being very welcoming.

"They are very welcoming, so they do try to cultivate this atmosphere of safety," said Madrigal.

The objective of the MSA club is to educate the community.

"We're not trying to convert anyone," said Ashwag Shidawa, a Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies major and Club Secretary.

These events are intended to create a positive and social interaction amongst students and staff from CSUB. Ali said they are a social club that hosts off-campus activities for club members as well as community volunteers in Bakersfield.

The Muslim Student Association club at CSU Bakersfield hosts events as part of their ongoing efforts to reveal an honest facet of Muslim culture that most of the media fails to cover.

"People see the word Muslim and the name of the club and they assume that you have to be Muslim to join, but no, it's open for anyone that's interested in learning about the Muslim community, culture, and religion," said Fatma Ali, a junior psychology major and president of the MSA club.

The objective of the MSA club is to educate the community.

"We're not trying to convert anyone," said Ashwag Shidawa, a Child, Adolescent, and Family Studies major and Club Secretary.

These events are intended to create a positive and social interaction amongst students and staff from CSUB. Ali said they are a social club that hosts off-campus activities for club members as well as community volunteers in Bakersfield.

The Muslim Student Association club members meeting in the Blue room in the Student Union for their weekly club meetings.

safe space for Muslim students. She encourages people to join but wants to ensure that students keep their minds open.

"You don't have to be Muslim to join MSA. You just have to be open minded and be okay with [a] diverse [group of] people," said Qwfan.

Owfan said that much of what the media portrays about Muslims tends to be negative, so what MSA hopes to accomplish is breaking that stereotype.

"We're not what you see on tv," said Shidawa.

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RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Danielle Blankenship/ Photos by Cecilia Torres

This week The Runner asked, "Have you had positive or negative experiences with advising?"

Xena Ramirez
Biology



"Negative. In my first semester, a bunch of [Biology majors] had holds on our account and our advisor told us not to come to his office. Mine never got removed so I had to go see him. He was so angry about it! I've never gone back"

Michael Saenz
Art



"Positive. They were really helpful with helping me pick classes that best suited my major. They know what professors are the best. They helped me organized myself better not only with classes."

Jasmine Alvarado
Biology



"Positive. Most of the time they're really quick in-and-out meetings. They aren't super helpful or anything. But they help me pick classes, so mostly positive."

Christian Gonzalez
Art



"Positive. They help me pick classes and can help me decide what kind I want. They know what to suggest and everything."

REVIEW

'Black Panther' smashes box office on opening weekend

By Danielle Blankenship
Opinion Editor

Not only did Marvel release the first superhero movie to be directed by an African-American man over the weekend, Marvel released a record breaking, non-conforming cinematic masterpiece that demonstrates what real representation is.

"Black Panther" is the movie that will be talked about for years to come; not only for its scripted content, but for the casting and the statement it made this weekend.

"Black Panther" begins a week after the events in "Captain America: Civil War". After the death of his father, T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) must return to the isolated "third-world" African country of Wakanda to assume the crown.

However, challenged by tribes within his own country and deadly foes from America,

T'Challa has to fight for the safety of his people with the aid of his General Okoye (Danai Gurira), Princess Shuri (Letitia Wright), and Wakandan spy Nakia (Lupita Nyong'o).

Something that greatly surprised me while I watched Black Panther was the abundance of women of color having leading roles.

From the Queen Ramonda and Princess Shuri, to the secret services General Okoye, to the spy Nakia; all of these women were essential to the plot of the story.

This movie easily passes the Bechdel movie test of female representation, something that original Star Wars movies failed at doing.

"Black Panther" has more than two women, both of whom are named, and hold a conversation that isn't about a man.

Furthermore, all of these women of color didn't fit the cookie-cutter, light skinned image

usually seen in Hollywood. They all had varying skin tones and styles of hair.

From Queen Ramonda snow-white dreadlocks, to Nakia's Bantu knots, to General Okoye bald head; the variety is abundant!

The actual content of the



Photo from Disney and Marvel

movie was amazing as well. "Black Panther" possessed the usual Marvel formula of having a dramatic scene followed by a joke to keep the audience guessing what might happen next.

But this movie pulled no punches when addressing racism, colonization,

tion, or misogyny. Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan) is the apex to the addressing of racism and colonization, and wanting to fight against the injustice Africans have faced over the centuries.

While Killmonger represented one extreme towards racism and colonization, King T'Challa and most of Wakanda represent the other extreme.

They hid away from the rest of the world and refuse to let any "outsider" know what technological advances they possess. Wakanda is simply viewed as a "third world African country" with nothing to offer the rest of the world.

The only non-Wakandan to actually know, and have seen their technology, is Killmonger's partner.

Killmonger is also one of the two named white characters in the movie; an exact juxtaposition to

most movies.

The other white character being Agent Everett Ross (Martin Freeman) who aids T'Challa in battling Killmonger and Klaw.

Like every Marvel movie, "Black Panther" has after credit teasers. However, it is very important that you do not leave after the first red post-credit screen!

Sit down and get comfortable watching the black credit screen.

A very important screen happens at the very end that will get you excited for the upcoming release of Infinity War, which is May 4.

"Black Panther" won many records so far, including: biggest February opening weekend (\$201.8 million), biggest opening weekend by a black filmmaker, and biggest pre-summer opening.

Overall, this movie greatly deserves its 97 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

STAFF EDITORIAL

Mental health larger issue with shootings, not guns

Editor's note

The Staff Editorial is an unsigned opinion story that reflects The Runner editorial board's stance on an issue. We invite our readers to join the discussion by sending us a letter to the editor at therunneronline@gmail.com

The tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida resulting in the death of 17 high school students was not a campaign for greater gun control

but instead should be seen as a cry for greater funding to mental health illness.

Nikolas Cruz, the nineteen-year old who was responsible for the most recent mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, was known around campus for his unstable mental state and affinity for weapons.

As seen throughout media networks across the country including CNN, Fox News and NBC News, Cruz had posted on multiple social media networks either posing with or presenting guns.

Laura Ingraham, host of Fox News' "The Ingraham Angle", said on her Feb. 13 show that Cruz was

so well known for his violence and mental health issues that "if the students know, then the teachers know too."

Which is a fair assumption in high schools nowadays. It is not that uncommon for teachers to know just as much as students about what is happening at school, or to even have access to student social media.

Ingraham also pointed out in her show that in the United States there are only a handful of people with the same name as the shooter and spell it the same. Only 6 people in Florida spell their name Nikolas Cruz. And yet the Federal Bureau of Investigation was unable to track down the teen when they were

made aware of his social media comments.

However the uproar in the media is over gun regulations, instead of the behavior and mental health of Cruz and other mass killers.

According to NBC News, Cruz was examined by a Florida mental health agency in 2016, but he was not hospitalized.

Former President Obama had created regulations that they hoped would make it more difficult for mentally ill persons to acquire weapons.

According to NBC News, had the rule taken effect, "the Obama administration predicted it would have added about 75,000 names to

the database" for the national background check.

When Congress repealed the regulation, many gun control activists complained that our government was too soft on guns.

However how many people realized that gun control regulation was incredibly unfair and even the American Civil Liberties Union, which is well known for supporting gun control, argued that the regulation was prejudice and stereotypical, according to "Gun Control Laws Should Be Fair" on their website.

We do not advocate for gun violence, but if the issue is really about saving lives, why not push for

funding where it can save the most lives?

In the United States, according to Mass Shooting Tracker, there were 475 deaths related to mass shootings in 2015.

That number however is minute when you compare it to the 10,265 deaths related to drunk driving in 2015, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Why don't we start advocating for Congress to have stricter alcohol regulations or get rid of alcohol in the U.S.? How many people would rally for the sanctity of life then?

COMMENTARY

CSUB hosts events celebrating Black History Month

By Ola Iduma
Reporter

This month, the CSU Bakersfield campus is holding an array of events to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month.

According to the Associated Students, Inc. calendar, many students, clubs, and other organizations are hosting various Black History events and activities all month long.

Some great events include the CSUB Unity Breakfast and Gospel Fest, which was

held on Feb. 9, the talk on the History of the Black Panther Party Social, held on Feb. 13, and the "Brown Bag Discussion" on Tut Language (the spoken language created by slaves) on Feb. 15.

All of these events were open to students, staff, and community members. Allowing community members to participate is a wonderful idea because it allows people to celebrate and learn about black history.

It is also important for society to acknowledge black peo-

ple in history, many of who have contributed to America's success. People of color have always been present in the creation of America, but were always erased from the textbooks.

Zoie Tokzaka, music major, said she has attended all the Black History Month programs so far, and is going to try her best to go attend as many as she possibly can.

"I am very passionate about black history and Black Lives Matter. I am so happy that the campus is organizing events

to celebrate the Black History Month. I think there is a lot to be said about African-American figures in history, and I want as many people as possible to hear it," said Tokzaka.

Black History Month should not be important to only people of color however. These events seek to educate everyone on African and African-American influence on American society.

The major roles that African-Americans have played in the history of the United States affect Americans of

every race.

These events are especially exciting and educational for non-native students. Roma Yeganov, a sociology major, talks about the gospel fest event that she attended.

"It was phenomenal. I am originally from Russia, and I am on a study abroad program. This is only my first time in America, so I'm seeing things I haven't been exposed to in Russia. I went to the gospel fest and I was amused by the performances. It taught me more about diversity," said

Yeganov.

It would be very good to have even more events that can promote awareness on black history, even after the month is over.

Nevertheless, these events are great opportunities that CSUB is offering to the public to celebrate black history. The more we attend the events, the more aware we would be about our African-American historical figures and occurrences.

ATHLETICS

Icardo Center to receive upgrades

By Peter Castillo
Editor-in-Chief

CSU Bakersfield Athletics received a grant from Kern County Federal Credit Union to upgrade the blue court inside the Icardo Center.

The Roadrunners are the only NCAA team in the nation with a blue court, which they debuted in 2011.

Since then, the court has sustained damage which has left the floor in a state where temporary changes would not fulfill the standards of a top-flight Division I program.

"The playing surface, no matter what we did, were not up to the standards of what we want," said Athletics Director Kenneth "Ziggy" Siegfried to 23 ABC News.

The current court is a portable design that sits above the ground.

This has presented a safety problem to fans and students as well, according to Siegfried.

The new court will be built into the Icardo Center and will still be colored blue.

The new court will be now known as "Kern Schools Court."

Siegfried commended Kern Schools for its generosity.

"Kern Schools gives in so many ways to our university," said Siegfried to gorunners.com. "They invest financially to the two most important pillars in our depart-



The Icardo Center is known for its blue court, the only one in the NCAA. The court will receive an upgrade this spring.

ment."

The design of the floor, however, is still undecided, according to Siegfried.

In addition, as first reported by The Runner, the men's and women's locker rooms will receive upgrades as well.

The remaining money received from the grant will go towards the renovations of the locker rooms.

The women's basketball and volleyball teams will now have their own locker rooms.

The men's locker rooms will also receive further renovations.

Central heating and air condition-

ing will also be installed in both locker rooms.

These strategic upgrades are all part of a "master plan" for athletics, according to Siegfried.

The new court and locker room upgrades follow the addition of a new video board that was installed prior to the Fall 2018 seasons.

The renovations are scheduled to begin this spring and will be completed in time for the 2018-2019 season.

The locker room upgrades are scheduled to begin in March, while the court will be renovated following graduation in May.

COACHING

Hoops coaches leave imprint on young student-athletes

[COACHES Page 1]

He said former NFL wide receiver Danny Buggs, as his mentor growing up. Collegiate head coach, Orlando Henry "Tubby" Smith, who coached the Kentucky Wildcats to a 1998 National Championship, remains a key inspiration for Barnes, as well as Dr. Martin Luther King, who had a profound impression on him.

"You put people in compartments to be the best person you can be," said Barnes.

"It takes a village to raise a child, and I've been one to have been raised by a village."

Barnes also has two sons who have played for the Roadrunners.

His son Brandon, played for CSUB from 2011 to 2014. He is also currently the director of basketball operations for the program.

Bray Barnes, his younger son, is currently a member of the Roadrunners. He is in his redshirt-junior season and was a member of the two most successful Roadrunners

teams at the Division I level.

Another notable coach on the CSUB campus recognizes the honor that it is to be a black leader.

For women's basketball head coach Greg McCall, being a part of both histories matters.

"It means a lot. For me, I'm very honored to be a part of CSUB women's basketball," said McCall.

He is the first black head coach for the women's program since its

McCall, a CSUB alumnus, played for the men's basketball team.

He played for the Roadrunners from 1990 to 1991. McCall was captain, who led them to a Division II Final Four appearance in 1991.

The transition from player to assistant coach to head coach has been a smooth one for McCall.

He led the Roadrunners to a regular season WAC title and a Women's NIT appearance in 2015.

"Being able to have the opportunity to be here where it all started for me as a basketball player, and then become a head coach here, is what made it home."

Greg McCall, women's basketball head coach

inception in the 2000-2001 season.

McCall is in his seventh season coaching women's basketball and he has an overall record of 104-103.

"Being the first black coach [for CSUB's women's basketball] and being a male black coach, at this time, is huge," said McCall.

"Our basketball program here is wonderful and a young program. It has achieved so much in a short amount of time."

said McCall.

The women are currently in first place in WAC, three games away from clinching the No. 1 seed for the upcoming WAC tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada in March. The team appears to be running at full capacity and seem ready for tournament play.

McCall and the Roadrunners are looking to win their first WAC tournament in program history.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

CSUB gears up for homecoming

By Peter Castillo
Editor-in-Chief

With Homecoming approaching, the CSU Bakersfield men's basketball team will be playing in its most important stretch of the season.

The Roadrunners (11-15, 4-7 WAC) defeated Grand Canyon University 71-58 on Saturday, Feb. 17 to stay ahead of the University of Missouri-Kansas City for the sixth spot in the Western Athletic Conference.

The two teams have identical conference records, however, CSUB is ahead of UMKC due to having a better overall record.

CSUB was led against GCU by redshirt-junior guard Damiyne Durham who scored a game-high of 17 points.

Redshirt-freshman forward Justin Davis sparked the Roadrunners with a season-high of 15 points and 12 rebounds to notch his first-career double-double.

"The way we played tonight, if we keep playing that way, we can play really well going into March," said Davis. "It's great for our confidence."

When redshirt-senior Brent Wrapp dished out his 500th career assist on Saturday night, he became the second Roadrunner ever to reach this feat.

Head coach Rod Barnes is confident the team will continue to grow going into the final stretch of the season.

"Your bench is going to have to be a factor," said Barnes. "We got to continue to move some other guys forward. Hopefully we can get there and everybody can be ready to play."

The Roadrunners will welcome



Freshman guard Jarrel Joiner rises for a breakaway layup in a game against Chicago State on Feb. 1 at the Icardo Center.

Utah Valley University to town on Thursday, Feb. 22. The Wolverines blew out CSUB 75-42 in the conference opener on Jan. 6 in Orem, Utah.

On Saturday, Feb. 24, the Roadrunners will take on Seattle University on Homecoming Night at 6 p.m. at the Icardo Center.

Homecoming will also double as Senior Night where CSUB will hon-

or its five seniors, forwards Shon Briggs and James Suber and centers Moataz Aly and Fallou N'doye and Wrapp.

The Roadrunners will wrap up the regular season on the road against Grand Canyon on Saturday, March 3.

The WAC tournament begins on Thursday, March 8 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Arena.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Roadrunners remain first in WAC

By Peter Castillo
Editor-in-Chief

After a convincing 69-40 win on the road over Grand Canyon University on Saturday, Feb. 17, the CSU Bakersfield women's basketball team remains in first place in the Western Athletic Conference.

The Roadrunners (15-10, 9-2 WAC) sit a full game ahead of New Mexico State University (14-11, 8-3 WAC) with three games left to play in the regular season after the Aggies defeated Seattle University, 64-53 on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Prior to CSUB's win over Grand Canyon, Head Coach Greg McCall spoke about his team's position in the conference standings.

"This is the first time in my whole career of being here that the team is in control of where we stand in the conference leading to the postseason," said McCall to gorunners.com.

CSUB is currently riding a seven-game winning streak, after starting conference play 2-2.

In the win over GCU, CSUB was led by redshirt-junior guard Jazmine Johnson, junior guard Alexxus Gilbert and redshirt-senior center Jazmyne Bartee who each scored 12 points.

Sophomore guard Dalis Jones added 11 points off the bench, while senior forward Aja Williams, who also came off the bench put up 10 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

The Roadrunners outrebounded the Antelopes 40-26 and never trailed throughout the game.

CSUB limited Grand Canyon to only 35 percent shooting from the floor and only 16.7 percent from three-point distance.

The Roadrunners' bench outscored

the GCU's 37-9.

CSUB will take on Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah on Thursday, Feb. 22 at 10 a.m.

The Roadrunners defeated Utah Valley 63-58 to begin conference play on Jan. 6.

Then, CSUB will travel to the Pacific Northwest to play Seattle on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 4 p.m. in a game that could have possible first place ramifications.

In the two teams' first matchup this season on Jan. 27, the Roadrunners knocked off Seattle U, 75-68 at the Icardo Center.

CSUB will wrap up its regular

season schedule with a home game against GCU on Saturday, March 3 at 1 p.m. at the Icardo Center on Senior Day.

The Roadrunners will honor their four seniors, guard Alize' Lofton, forward Kandiss Barber, Bartee and Williams.

The WAC tournament begins for the women on Wednesday, March 7 in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Arena.

Should the standings hold, CSUB would face off against Chicago State University, who has only one win this season, in the first round of the tournament.



Simer Khurana/The Runner
Redshirt-junior guard Jazmine Johnson dribbles past a New Mexico State defender during a game on Feb. 10 at the Icardo Center.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Roadrunners look to build off success of indoor season

By Johnathan Wheatley
Assistant Sports Editor

CSU Bakersfield's volleyball team traded its court shoes and indoor court for bare feet in the sand and a nice tan.

After a stellar indoor volleyball season in the Western Athletic Conference, the Roadrunners are looking to take the Big West Conference by storm on the beach.

CSUB went 19-14 overall and 9-5 in WAC play during its indoor

season.

In the WAC tournament, CSUB swept Seattle University in the first round, 3-0.

In the semifinals, the Roadrunners stunned No. 1 New Mexico State University, 3-1.

In the final, CSUB took down the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley with a 3-1 victory.

It was CSUB's second WAC tournament in four years.

The season ended for the Roadrunners in Palo Alto, California at the

hands of the Stanford Cardinal in the first round of the NCAA tournament, 3-0.

CSUB looks to bring the same demeanor they used in the fall to spring.

"The same kind of attitude, the same kind of spirit, we want to bring that from the court to the sand," said Head Coach Cesar Benatti.

CSUB is on the road for the beginning of the season starting with four road games before returning home

in March.

"We have a better schedule that puts us in a position that we can be more successful," Benatti said. "In addition to that, the group we have is hard working group."

It's a different style of play for the volleyball team coming from the court to the sand.

"I'm used to hitting in indoor, and I have to pass a lot more in sand," said graduate student Sydney Haynes.

Haynes played middle blocker for

the Roadrunners during the indoor season.

Instead of six players at a time on the court, there are only two at a time in the sand. This forces both players to collectively do what a six-person team does.

CSUB has five seniors on the team that hope to make the best of the season.

"It's definitely a blessing knowing it is the last time we get to do this for our team and our school," said senior Emily Lopes.

CSUB opens the season Saturday, Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. at Loyola Marymount University.

The first home game for the Roadrunners is a doubleheader Saturday, March 10 with the first match beginning at 10 a.m. against Mira Costa College. The second match will take place at 2 p.m. against Vanguard University.

Homes matches are played at Barnes Beach Volleyball Complex, which is located behind the Student Recreation Center.

BASEBALL

CSUB wins finale vs. UC Davis

By Vincent Perez
Sports Editor

The Roadrunners are thankful their offense came alive in the last of its three-game series against UC Davis.

The CSU Bakersfield baseball team has begun their season 1-2, avoiding the sweep at home, Sunday, Feb. 18. They won easily 14-7.

Offense struggles tormented the Roadrunners in the first two games of the season. They totaled 2 runs in their losses against the Aggies.

"We got to be proud of the effort," said first-year Head Coach Jeremy Beard.

"It was a matter of time," said Beard about the offense, against UC Davis on Sunday, Feb. 18. Offensive execution and defense set the tone in the lopsided win.

For the first time this season, CSUB scored in the first inning. They scored four runs and led the Aggies 7-0 by the end of the second inning.

Senior outfielder, Jassen Oliver, who batted fourth in the designated hitter spot, knocked in five runs. Oliver went 2-for-5 in the 14-7 win. Jake Ortega, junior catcher, recorded three hits in five at-bats against the Aggies.

"It started from first at bat on," said Ortega. He said everyone else contributed in the win.

There was only one starter for CSUB who did not get a hit, and they committed no errors.

"Defense played really well all around. Pitching was definitely better," said Ortega.

He feels that an early 1-2 record will not define the team.

"There's no panic button, even though the last few games were more [runs] than we wanted to [give up], but we are where we want to be," added Ortega.

Ortega had one RBI and a walk in the Roadrunners' first victory of the



Aaron Mills/The Runner
CSU Bakersfield second baseman, Lewis Dirkes, at bat in the second inning during the Feb. 16 opening game to UC Davis. CSUB lost 8-1.

season.

Outfielder Andrew Penner, a senior, was 3-for-5 on the day.

Redshirt-senior first baseman Alec Daily had two runs in the game, as well.

Pitching was also key in the win, which was highlighted by freshman Davonte Butler, who started the game, with a 5-inning outing. Butler allowed five runs to score, yet, struck out five Aggies. In the sixth, junior Jordan Ragan recorded a four-inning save to clinch the 14-7 win after giving up two runs in the ninth.

On Saturday, March 17, CSUB lost 15-1 to UC Davis, at home. The Roadrunners totaled 11 hits, despite the one unearned run that occurred from an error from Aggie shortstop Tanner Murray.

Aggie Chris Brown went 6 innnings and threw 80 pitches, with no earned runs. CSUB used five pitchers, who allowed 18 total hits in the loss.

CSUB lost their opening game of the season at Hardt Field 8-1 to UC Davis on Friday, Feb. 16.

The Aggies jumped all over sopho-

more starting pitcher Aaron Charles in the fourth inning. UC Davis earned three runs off Charles and he finished with five innings' work on the day. Freshman second baseman Lewis Dirkes had the only run in the game for CSUB.

The Roadrunners played St. Mary's College on Monday, Feb. 19 as the newspaper went to print. Please check therunneronline.com for updates.

CSUB begins a four-game series at the University of California, Berkley, on Friday, Feb. 23 through Feb. 25.

They return home for a one-off game at Hardt Field to take on California State University, Northridge, on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m.

The Roadrunners will face teams such as Portland State University, the University of Northern Las Vegas, Dartmouth College and San Diego State University before Western Athletic Conference competition begins in late March.

CSUB will face the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley in its first WAC three-game series, March 23 through March 25 in Texas.

SOFTBALL

Roadrunners pick up first win

By Johnathan Wheatley
Assistant Sports Editor

CSU Bakersfield softball (1-9) opened the season with back-to-back tournaments in the opening two weekends of the season.

Its opening tournament saw the Roadrunners fail to record a win, going 0-5 in the University of San Diego tournament.

Teams competing in the tournament were Campbell University and University of San Diego. In four of the five games, the Roadrunners fell behind early giving up first inning runs.

The Roadrunners dropped two games to CU, 3-5 in the first game and 4-7 in the second game and three games to USD, 5-7, 2-10 in five innings and 2-4 in the final game.

In the second loss to USD, the Roadrunners held an early 2-0 lead, but an eight run third inning for the Toreros would put an end to any chance at a victory, ending the game in the fifth inning, 2-10.

It did not get any easier for the Roadrunners as they went on the road to compete in the Bulldog Classic.

It started out rough in the beginning of the classic for the Roadrunners dropping its first four games.

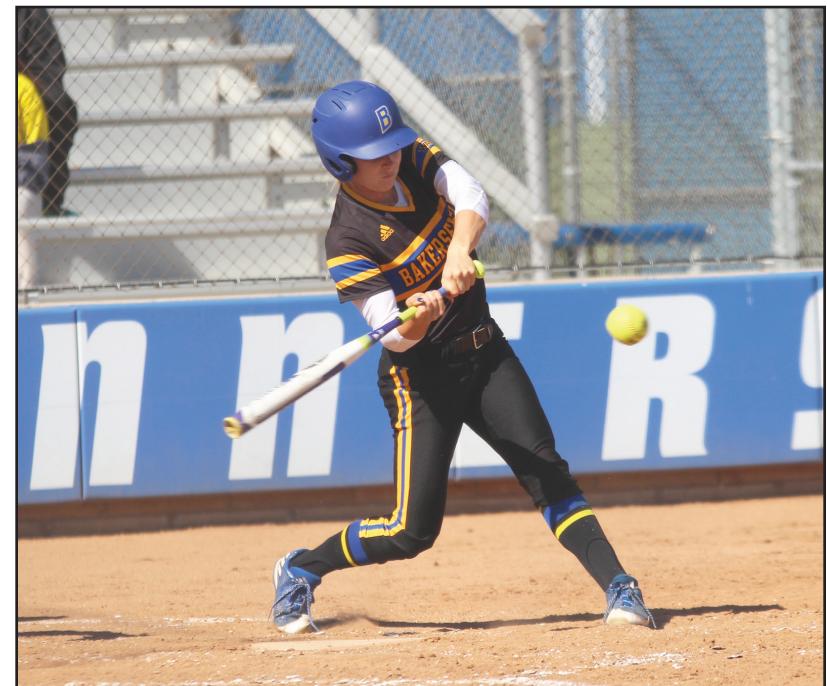
The closest they were to victory was a 3-7 loss to University of California, Davis.

Other teams in the Bulldog Classic included Pacific University, Fresno State University.

In its two games against Pacific, CSUB fell 3-8 in the first matchup and 0-6 in the second game.

The one game against Fresno State ended early as the Bulldogs dominated the Roadrunners and won 8-0 in five innings.

A normal game without going into extra innings would last seven innings.



Runner Archives
Senior outfielder Kaylynn Burt hits the ball at the Roadrunner Softball Complex on Friday, March 31, 2017.

According to the NCAA rules, if a team is ahead by eight runs or more runs after the fifth inning, the game will end because of the mercy rule.

If the away team is down by eight or more, the away team is allowed to hit in the top of the fifth.

If the home team is under the mercy rule and then exceeds the eight run rule in the bottom of the fifth, the game is over.

CSUB managed to steal a victory in its final game of the classic against Saint Mary's College, 6-5.

Both teams were winless going into the game.

SMC scored three runs in the top of the third inning to take a 3-0 lead.

The Roadrunners responded back with three runs of its own.

In the top of the fifth, SMU retook the lead 5-3 after a triple drove in two runs.

Once again CSUB answered, but this time it wasn't to tie. Freshman Gabriella Fua hit a double down the left field line, two runs would score

and the Roadrunners tie the score at 5-5.

The next hitter, junior Chris Hipa hit a single up the middle scoring Fua and giving the Roadrunners a 6-5 lead and its first victory of the season.

"This team needed that victory today. They battled and fought as an entire team and deserved the win," said Head Coach Crissy Buck-Ziegler to gorunners.com.

The Roadrunners will remain on the road as they head to Saint Mary's College (0-10) for a three game series in Moraga, California.

The first homes series for the Roadrunners will be March 3 and 4 against Sacramento State University (3-6).

March 3 will be a double header with the first game starting at noon and the second game scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

Sunday's game is scheduled to begin 11 a.m. at the CSUB Softball Complex.

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