

California State University, Bakersfield

Feb. 27, 2019

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## Homecoming king gives up crown



Photo Courtesy of Campus Programming

Homecoming King nominees, Deon Danehy (left) and Vanessa Zepeda (right), applaud as Morayo Olujumu (center) is announced as Homecoming Queen during the men's basketball homecoming game on Feb 23, 2019.

By Lauren Silvis  
*Reporter*

The announcement of the homecoming king and queen came as a shock as the winner of the king title decided to give up his crown during the homecoming game Saturday night.

Deon Danehy was voted as homecoming king and passed down his crown to runner-up Vanessa Zepeda.

Earlier in the week, Zepeda said "I wanted to run this year to show visibility to all LGBT+ students. CSUB is definitely a safe zone, I'm so proud to be

an LGBT+ student, a hispanic student, and hopefully the first female Homecoming King."

Danehy thought Zepeda was more deserving of the crown.

"I wasn't able to get to some of the events on campus but she went to all of them. I loved her message and I felt she deserved

it," said Danehy.

Zepeda was spotted at every homecoming week event on campus where she supported the Women's Basketball Club, the LGBT+ Club, and multiple Honors Societies.

Zepeda said she was shocked. "I've never seen something like

that happen. It was shocking but it was awesome. I respect him because he was so respectful, he wasn't ashamed to do it and he was proud to give it to me. The environment at CSUB is turning into such a positive place for all kinds of people," said Zepeda.

## ASI prepares for upcoming elections in April

By Ivette Nolasco  
*Reporter*

The candidate filing period for students who are interested in being part of the next university's student government board, Associated Students, Inc., is open until March 22.

ASI Executive Director Ilaria Pesco advised students not to be scared about running for elections.

"Do it, run... I know it can be

scary and I know maybe you feel nervous about it but if you have great ideas, if you want to improve the campus, if you want to be able to advocate for students and you are passionate about student issues, that is what this group is about. All it takes is you being willing to put yourself out there," Pesco said.

ASI has been recognized as CSU Bakersfield's student government board for more than four decades now. The positions for the student government board

include a president, four vice presidents, a chief justice, chair of the board, and directors from each school, class level, as well as the dorms.

The five executive positions not only get to represent the whole student body at a community, state and national level but they also get a full scholarship that matches their tuition during the term they are assigned.

Although ASI promotes the elections every year, current Vice President of University Affairs

Jose Garcia said, "Last year was the first time ever that all five executive positions ran unopposed."

In regard to that, Pesco added that it is not uncommon for candidates to run unopposed even among other CSU campuses.

"I think that students have a hard time thinking about campaigning and running for elections. I think that students would much rather apply for a position and be interviewed for it and do it that way versus campaigning,"

said Pesco.

ASI positions are filled through application if no one runs for it during elections. However, according to Pesco, students are advised to go through the election process.

ASI Executive Vice President Alejandra "Olly" Lopez said, "This year we are doing everything we can through our elections programming to make sure that we have the most inclusive and accessible elections process.

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# HOMECOMING RECAP

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The Runner

## Court receives praise during game



From Campus Programming

The newly crowned homecoming court is presented at halftime of the men's basketball game on Feb. 23, with athletic director Kenneth "Ziggy" Siegfried (left), CSUB President Lynnette Zelezny (right) and Vice President of Student Affairs, Tom Wallace (far right).

## BBQ and pep rally kick off CSUB homecoming week

By Runner Staff

### Kick Off BBQ

If you were walking through campus last Monday, wondering why there were over a 100 students lined up, it's homecoming week. Festivities began last Monday, Feb. 18, in the afternoon with a free BBQ kickoff.

Students were given the opportunity to speak with the 2019 Homecoming Court. The information on how to vote was sent out to everyone's school email.

Students were provided with free food: burgers, veggie burg-

ers, chips, condiments and more. While the event took place, the homecoming court introduced themselves and let the students know what their favorite thing was about being at CSUB.

Homecoming court candidates met with students and the rest of the CSUB community.

### Crowning & Pep Rally

The senior queen and king were announced at halftime of the men's basketball game on Feb. 23: King was originally Deon Danehy but he relinquished the crown to Vanessa Zepeda.

Queen was awarded to Morayo Olujumu.

Before that, a pep rally took place on Thursday, Feb. 21 to get the students and staff ready for homecoming week.

Students played a chicken toss game where four contestants had a chance to win prizes.

Senior Xocee Smith walked away with the grand prize, a gift bag of prizes.

Originally, the pep rally was supposed to have a lip-sync battle where groups and individuals could display their lip-sync skills. Unfortunately, according

to Smith, there was only one group that had signed up for the competition. Due to the lack of interest, the competition was cancelled.

In lieu of the lip-sync battle, the freshmen, sophomore, and junior homecoming court winners were announced throughout the rally.

Also, the finalists for homecoming queen and king were announced.

This year's homecoming Freshman maid is Serenity Sanchez. The Freshman squire is Martin Navarro Jr. The Sophomore duchess is Leslie Perez, and

the Sophomore duke is Quinn Kelly. Junior princess is Ebony Harrison and the Junior prince is Aaron Wan.

Finally, the runners-up for homecoming queen and king were announced. The two runners-up of homecoming queen are Leigh Whitson and Morayo Olujumu. The two runners-up for homecoming king were Deon Danehy and Vanessa Zepeda.

The pep squad led the crowd in singing CSUB's alma mater. Everyone sang and held their hands high to display the Runner hand symbol.



Sergio Hernandez/The Runner

Students wait in line for food at the kick off bbq in front of the Student Union for homecoming week on Feb. 18.



Sergio Hernandez/The Runner  
The line of students runs across the patio in front of the Student Union on Feb. 18 for free food provided by campus programming.



JJ Reed/The Runner  
Students share a friendly game of water pong during Runner Hour at the CSUB Student Union patio on Feb. 20.

## Investment Center now open

By Lauren Silvis  
Reporter

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019, CSU Bakersfield students and staff gathered at the Business Development Center for a special grand opening. President Lynnette Zelezny, Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration, Angappa Gunasekaran, the CSUB pep squad and more watched as CSUB's Investment Center was officially ready for business.

The opening remarks began, and Zelezny said, "This Investment Center allows CSUB students access to information that is reserved for IVY League schools." She also said, "I am hoping students will get a Student Investment Group together like the one I was a part of."

The purpose of the Investment Center is to help students learn how the stock market works. Students can learn how investing money works and they will have 24 hour access to real time market surveillance.

"We have access to the real time market data, and also access to a lot of other useful information about the economy and how different industries are doing," Gunasekaran said.

After the big blue ribbon was cut, attendees got an inside look into how this new addition is going to work. Upon first glance it is overwhelming. There are 12 pods, each adorned with dual computer screens, a colorful keyboard and a student who understands the system.

It turns out, this pod is called a Bloomberg Terminal. The Bloomberg Terminal is a computer software program



Bre Parks/The Runner  
CSUB student shows how to use one of the Bloomberg Terminals on Feb. 23, 2019.

that allows professionals to have access, monitor and analyze the real-time financial market data. The Terminal also provides news, price quotes, and messaging through a secure network.

Yoselin Gonzales, Accounting Major then went on the computer and looked up Netflix. Words, numbers and everything in between popped up on the screen. She began to explain what some aspects meant and how it translates to a more relatable platform.

Gonzales said she was excited about the Investment Center. "[I] wanted to learn how to use the whole system which is a little scary because so much is going on, it just comes at you," said Gonzales.

Gonzales plans to use the information

she learns through the Investment Center when she enters the job market.

The take away Gonzales is hoping for, is the exact reason this Investment Center has come to CSUB.

Professor Juan Gutierrez said "the idea is to try and use the terminals to demonstrate what we teach in class. Allowing them to have a competitive edge when they go into the job market."

All in all, the Investment Center will be a great tool for all CSUB students and staff. Whether your major will result in the use of this information or not, understanding the market and how that little app on one's phone with all the numbers means, is unmatched.

## ASI candidate applications due March 22

### [ASI, Page 1]

We have events up until elections so students can get to know what positions are available and find out where they fit in ASI so they can start to narrow it down."

Everyone who is passionate about helping others is encouraged to get involved. Lopez stated that she is a first generation, low-income, Latina, full of tattoos, and she believes that she does not look like the type of person that would be in a position advocating on behalf of the 12,000 students on campus. This was her second year being part of the ASI board and Lopez stated that she finds it very rewarding to know that every hour she puts in means that she is helping students just like herself.

Similarly, Garcia said that being part of ASI for three years was a life changing experience that is already helping him outside of campus.

"I currently have an internship in the city of Arvin and a big thing that I'm doing now is helping apply for grants for the city to get more money to fix the roads over there, and I'm doing a lot of public outreach," he said.

Garcia added that he couldn't have done many of the things he is doing now without the experience and what he learned in ASI.

In order to run for an ASI position, students must file an application on or before March 22 at 11 a.m., attend a mandatory



Runner Archives  
Ashley Schmidt, Aaron Wan, Christopher Smith, and Jose Garcia (left to right) explain why they are the best candidate during the ASI debate on March 19, 2018.

meeting March 22, run a campaign from March 25 to April 4 and participate in a candidate debate on April 2.

The final step of the process for electing the upcoming student board is the students' votes which will be on April 3 and 4.

The student government board will be hosting several events for students to learn

more about the organization in the next several weeks.

In addition, ASI is providing workshops and assistance for those who are interested in running for the upcoming elections so they can be better prepared for their campaigns. All the information about important dates and events can be found on their website.

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# Panel talks immigrant detention centers

By **Violeta Trujillo**  
Reporter

Between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, migrant caravans, and discussions of the border wall, immigration remains a controversial topic in the nation. Due to recent events, the topic of immigration is being even more analyzed in local communities.

On Feb. 13, 2019, CSU Bakersfield's Kegley Institute of Ethics and the Pre-Law Society hosted a panel discussion titled, "Immigration Behind Bars: Activist, Legal, and Education Perspectives." This free and public event introduced local immigration laws, agencies and practices of immigrant family detention, and other impacts from immigration in Kern County.

Ambar Tovar, the directing attorney with the United Farm Workers Foundation, was one of three panelists that gave insight on Mesa Verde, Kern County's immigration detention center.

"The majority of people held in Mesa Verde are held without legal counsel," said Tovar.

Mesa Verde has the capacity to hold 400 individuals-300 women and 100 men. Although the department is local, all detainees of Mesa Verde, including young detainees, and their families are required to travel to San Francisco for mandatory hearings.

"You're expecting a 2-year-old or 4-year-old to go to a legal proceeding without legal counsel by their side," said Tovar.

According to the American Immigration Council, represented immigrants in detention who had legal representation were four times more likely to be released from detention, than a detainee without legal representation.

## Construction for Aquatic Center remains unknown

By **Norma Hernandez**  
Digital Managing Editor

If it seems like students are paying more this school year, it's not an error. Student fees have increased. Last semester, fall 2018, students began paying their two cents for the new Aquatic Center, except it's actually a \$20 increase. Back in Feb. 2018, a total of 1,086 students voted "yes" on approving and financing an aquatic center and expansion of the Student Union.

The campaign #OURNEWSU promised that the aquatic center would begin construction immediately.

According to the CSUB website, if passed the SRC Aquatic Facility would begin construction immediately.

When it was passed, CSUB sent out a press release stating "planning for the construction of the SRC Aquatic Facility, which will be located in the current dirt lot on Kroll Way across the street from parking lot K2 and next to the SRC soccer field, will begin immediately, and the timeline for completion will be determined after construction begins."

Mary O'Mahoney, director of the Student Recreation Center, wrote in an email that the construction of the aquatic center

Mesa Verde detainees also face the obstacle of bonds being set at high amounts, which are unaffordable for many.

"You have no right to legal counsel unless you can afford one," said Tovar.

Adam Sawyer, director of CSUB's liberal studies program, discussed how immigration laws affect the children of immigrant detainees and their education.

"Learning does not happen when there is high degree of trauma," said Sawyer.

Children held in immigration shelters have academic assessment within 72 hours of detainment, which is followed with six hours of learning English.

Sawyer mentioned the best case scenario for these children is to be released into the arms of a caregiver. Immigrant children still have the right to public education and cannot be discriminated against due to their immigration status.

"We know from six decades of research that removal from a primary caregiver, depending on length of separation, can increase a risk for anxiety, depression, PTSD, ADHD, and cardiovascular disease," said Sawyer.

Sawyer advocated for maximizing the best learning environment for immigrant children.

The panel discussed that it is uncertain just how many children are being affected.

Mesa Verde is operating in Bakersfield's backyard, and while all this is happening, what can be done to help detainees?

After the panelists presented, the audience asked questions..

Among was professor Gonzalo Santos, an Associate Professor of Sociology, who said, "Wake up, [go] to vote and elect people like Alexandria Ocasio Cortez."

Santos shifted his focus by stressing the importance of electing the right officials



Bre Parks/The Runner

Panelists discuss local immigration issues to crowd on Feb. 13, 2019.

who will fix the immigration system.

Jeannie Parent, professor of English for Multilingual Studies at Bakersfield College, was another panelist. She informed the community on what steps can be taken to aid detainees.

"We need volunteers, especially Spanish speakers, who can provide company twice a week," said Parent.

Parent also invited non-Spanish speakers

to volunteer, noting that many detainees have been in the country for over 20 years and speak English.

Many detainees have no family to be released to and need hosts while they get back on their feet.

"This is happening in our back yard, to our neighbors, or the people we come across in church," said Tovar.

## What's Happening Around Campus

### February/March

#### 27 The Human Library

12 - 1 pm  
Dezember Room

#### 5 Veteran Taco Food Sale

10 am - 3 pm  
Runner Cafe Quad

#### The Afro Experience LGBTQ+

5 - 8 pm  
Student Union, MPR 125

#### 7 KIE Colloquia Series: Dr. Michael Loui

5:30 - 7:00 pm  
Stockdale Room

#### 28 Black History Month Guest Speaker

1 - 4 pm  
Student Union, MPR 125

#### Runners Campus Church

6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Albertson Room

#### 1 Aerospace Speaker Panel

12 - 4 pm  
Science III, Room 108

#### 9 Runner Dance Marathon 2019

10 am - 10 pm  
Student Union, MPR 125

#### 4 Getting Unstuck

1 - 2 pm  
Counseling Center

#### Women's Week Kick-off

11:30 am - 1 pm  
Student Union, Runner Park

#### 11 Crate Stacking Competition

11 am - 8 pm  
SRC, Rock Wall

#### 14 Lectures in Language and Linguistics

7 - 9 pm  
Humanities Complex, 1109

#### Fab Lab Hours:

Tuesday: 12:30 pm - 5 pm  
Wednesday: 11 am - 5 pm  
Thursday: 1 pm - 5 pm  
Friday: 11 am - 5 pm  
Saturday: 10 am - 3 pm

Spring 2020 Grad Application deadline:  
Submit grad applications by 5/17/2019

Calendar sponsored by School of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Engineering and School of Arts and Humanities. To be included, contact [jburger1@csub.edu](mailto:jburger1@csub.edu).

## Jackson's simple roots grow big

By Vincent Perez  
Features Editor

The ferment of IPA beer and country with a twist of rock guitar filled the back room inside Temblor Brewing Co. on Feb. 23. It was Jade Jackson and her bandmates who played their catchy country/Americana tunes to beer-swilling fans.

Jackson played songs off her Anti label debut, "Gilded," and new songs from her forthcoming sophomore record, "Wilder ness."

She debuted the title track as well as her ode to a personal experience, titled "Tonight." Jackson sang "Boys like you make me want to spend nights alone," baring her soul in Temblor on "Tonight."

She said between songs that her producer, Mike Ness of Social Distortion, pleaded with her to be more honest and more personal in her song-writing.

Although the crowd was smaller than their first time in Bakersfield, Jackson took her time to thank the crowd. She said during her set that the Temblor crowd was more polite than other cities that served patrons beer. Jackson previously played in Bakersfield at The Crystal Palace in December 2017, as an opening act.

This is where California-based Jackson, 27, wants to be: On stage sharing her soul.

### Gig Life

She recently shared in a telephone interview, "Being able to connect with people [on stage] and have people listen to them is worth it to me," said Jackson on her first-headlining tour.

"It's challenging but I don't find it hard; It's the lifestyle I chose." She said that the biggest challenge is cramming five guys and herself in one hotel room. Yet, she sees the bright side of touring.

Jackson said she feels blessed to be on tour with her closest friends.

For the past five years Jackson has been on the road touring, three as a solo act. It's her origin that propelled her to start writing music.

### Roots

She said that her parents did not have a TV or Internet growing up in Santa Margarita, a town of approximately 1,200, which is about two and half hours south of San Luis Obispo.

"It was pretty boring but that's what pushed me into music," said Jackson.

That type of environment and her father, Jeff, molded Jackson.

"The record player at home was where I hung out. My dad is a big fan of old country and punk," said Jackson.

She said Buck Owens, The Smiths, Dwight Yoakam, and Echo & The Bunnymen were all featured in her childhood home.

Jackson named Merle Haggard, Yoakam and Hank Williams as her musical idols.

Jackson, at 13, began playing and writing songs on guitar. She debuted at 13 in a local coffee shop in Santa Margarita.

"I'd pick the guitar off the wall every Sunday and play for my family," said Jackson.

She said in 2005 that a local musician saw her play and he offered an opening slot to her.

She graduated from the California Institute of Arts in 2015. Before that, for



Leo Garcia/The Runner

From left to right, Julian Ness, Tyler Miller, Jade Jackson, and Jake Vukovich perform at Temblor Brewing Company on Feb. 23.

14 years at her parent's restaurant in Santa Margarita, she hosted, waited tables, and washed dishes.

Originally, Jackson planned on interning at a production company after graduation, but Mike listened to Jackson's demo through his wife, leading to Jackson's label signing.

### Mentored by A Rock Idol

Mike, of legendary punk band Social Distortion, planned to shop Jackson's demo around but not before giving first dibs to Epitaph Records president, Brett Gurewitz, a punk rock innovator and original guitarist of Los Angeles-based Bad Religion.

"A couple days later they called to sign me," she said about signing to Anti under the Epitaph umbrella.

"It's a family label. Nothing is corporate. People there treat you like a person, not a product," said Jackson.

To have Mike as a mentor is a dream come true to Jackson. "It still is. He's such an incredible human," said Jackson. She added that Mike calls to check up on her.

Social Distortion has been signed with Epitaph since 2010.

### Recognition

The stage has gotten bigger for Jackson, but she's glad she has financial support.

"We might not be making a lot but at least it's not coming out of my pocket," said Jackson. She enjoyed playing on CBS This Morning in August 2017, and throughout Europe in 2018.

### Jackson Strikes Oil with Guitarist

In only his second show with the band, Julian Ness, son of Mike, is becoming an essential part of Jackson's presence on stage. His solos and riffs made the small back room of Temblor feel like a large rock venue.

Ness and Jackson's families are familiar with each other, being friendly for years. "Jade and I have known each other since

we were babies," said Ness.

"I'm loving it. It's a super good project that I'm a part of," said Ness after the show at Temblor.

"It's out of my comfort zone. So, there is a transition period and I'm having a really good time," added Ness.

Ness previously played live with his father, Mike, in punk rock icons Social Distortion. Ness also lent his talents to fellow punks bands Duane Peters and the Hunns, The Breakdowns and The Dead Relatives.

Ness said that his dad, Mike, saw the talent in Jackson from her demo and her songwriting ability. Thus, Mike mentored Jackson and produced her debut.

Ness was introduced as new lead guitarist via the band's Instagram four days earlier. Andrew Redel was the previous lead guitarist. He recorded guitar, piano and mandolin on "Gilded."

### Fan Experience

Brandon Erikson, 26, was a fan of Jade's prior to the show and even bought a record at the merchandise table. He said he discovered her online.

"Spotify. Actually, that's bullshit. It was on YouTube," he said.

"I typed in 'Mike Ness' to see if there was any interviews with him and a promotion for 'Gilded' popped up."

He added about Jackson, "I was definitely impressed. I liked what I heard."

"I listened to the album so many times; It was better live."

### Future

Jade Jackson's tour rolls through Phoenix, Arizona, on March 3, followed by dates in Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico, before circling back to California on March 27 in San Diego.

Jackson's music can be found on Spotify, Pandora, Bandcamp and YouTube.

## Blueprint Series Workshops

Thursday, February 28  
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
Student Union Blue Room  
MARKETING & RECRUITMENT  
Club Branding

Monday, March 4  
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
Student Union Blue Room  
FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY  
Excel 101

Thursday, March 7  
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
Student Union Blue Room  
RISK REDUCTION  
Wellness

## 'Gender Matters' to CSU Bakersfield

By Samantha Cook  
Reporter

The 11th annual Gender Matters Symposium, hosted by Club GEN (Gender Equality Now!), took place at CSU Bakersfield on Feb. 12.

Since the first Gender Matters Symposium in 2009, topics have included gender roles, sexuality, self-love, gender and politics, scientific research and approaches to gender, domestic violence, and a number of others related to women, gender, and sexuality studies.

Debra L. Jackson, interim associate dean of graduate and undergraduate studies, has been involved in the Gender Matters Symposium for years. She talked about how the event has evolved, since it began with an event called the Speaker Series.

"Not only does it do what the speaker series did... but it also gives students the opportunity to share their own research about gender studies," Jackson said.

She also mentioned that the symposium incorporates interdisciplinary studies, which creates

a type of deeply inclusive and relevant conversation. Jackson said that the event not only offers resources to students on and off campus, but it gives students an opportunity to network with members of the community.

This year's event shed light on the challenges that transgender and gender non-conforming people face as students and members of the community.

Speakers, visual art, poetry, and a panel called "Reclaiming Spaces: Strategies for creating inclusive and supportive environments for trans and gender non-conforming students in higher education" gave the audience of the symposium a fuller idea of these challenges.

Among students and community members speaking at the event, keynote speaker Kavi Ade shared his experience as a black, transgender man.

Club Gen President Samantha Delacruz, said he inspired audience members when discussing topics such as privilege, disadvantages, liberation, and activism.

Another student, Delila Solis,

senior sociology major, presented a major issue for transgender and gender non-conforming students that resides just below the surface: gendered language usage and materials in the classroom.

They discussed gendering in literature and the lack of representation for the LGBTQ community beginning in early education and continuing through to higher education institutions.

"There is definitely a role that language plays in our socialization and how we share cultural meanings and values... so giving a tangible plan for de-gendering our language is a really good way for everyone to be a part of this movement," Solis said.

Another student, junior art education major Rene Upton spoke on the panel at the symposium, answering questions presented by the moderator and members.

Upton also presented an art piece entitled "Eve." Upton presented a nude painting of a trans-body with bruising. "I wanted to allude to the sexuality of it, but also the potential violence of it," he said.

When asked what others can



Leo Garcia/The Runner

Andrea Gray, a business major, holds a raffle at the Genders Matter Symposium on Feb. 12.

do to create an inclusive and understanding environment for trans and gender non-conforming peers, Delacruz expressed the importance of using someone's preferred pronouns.

"Students have to fight for their pronouns to be recognized. Those are microaggressions that build up," said Delacruz. Additionally, Delacruz, Solis, and Upton each gave the same piece

of advice. "Educate yourself," they each said.

Resources can be found at the Multicultural Alliance and Cultural Equity Center on campus. MAGEC is also home to Jai's Library, featuring books that discuss gender and sexuality. Faculty members with "Safe Zone" training are available.

## Make friends fast

By Silvia Lopez Medero  
Reporter

On Feb. 13, Sonny Medina, the director of educational events, hosted CSU Bakersfield's first-ever speed friending event in the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

The idea of speed friending came from Medina hearing the positive experiences that his family and friends had at speed friending events that were held at CSU Sacramento. For this reason, he thought this would be an excellent opportunity for students to network and make new friends on campus.

"It creates an opportunity for students to build a community in a safe environment," said Medina.

Medina went on to discuss how he would have liked to have gone to an event like this because he was an "introvert pretending to be an extrovert."

He believed that this event could help students make friends in a fast and efficient way.

The event included pizza, drinks, and a variety of goody bags and candy. The room was set up with two long tables for the event. On top of the tables, there were baskets full of icebreaker questions to ask whomever you were sitting in front of.

The icebreaker questions were made to stimulate conversation by asking a variety of questions that could lead to finding unexpected interests.

Some questions included:

- "What song do you find yourself singing in the shower?"
- "What did you want to be as a teen?"
- "What superpower would you like to have?"

The reaction to these questions were positive, and many of the participants put them to good use in their conversations.

In response to the icebreaker questions, Miracle Sam, an art major, said, "These are pretty cool."

There were other positive aspects that students talked about.

"I like the whole desk setup that the event has," said Nicole Lowrie, an art major.

"The email made me laugh," said Iman Shidawa, an art major.

The email that she referred to contained a flier with two coffee cups being held with a caption that read, "Find Your New Best Friends."

Students also brought attention to some areas in which they could improve the event for next time.

"I wish it could be better advertised," said Lowrie.

A common complaint was that the event was a bit slow, and there was no one telling certain rows to transition to the next person. This caused confusion and many stayed talking to the same people. Many also noted that there were a lot of people leaving in the middle of the event, so at times there weren't as many people participating.

There were also issues that Medina spoke about. He spoke of how there were supposed to be clubs participating in the event, but that the timing was a bit off as many events were happening simultaneously.

Medina spoke of how next time they would plan better, so there will be clubs participating at the event for more student involvement.

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

PRESIDENTIAL INVESTITURE

OF

DR. LYNNETTE ZELEZNY

Friday, May 3, 2019

Investiture Ceremony 10AM  
"Taste of Bakersfield" Community Reception 12-3PM

Additional information available at  
[www.csub.edu/investiture](http://www.csub.edu/investiture)



We rise together to build a brighter future for our University, our students and our region.

— President Lynnette Zelezny

## Our view: ASI makes better effort informing students on elections

### Editor's note

**'OUR VIEW' is an unsigned opinion story that reflects The Runner editorial board's stance on an issue.**  
**Join the discussion by sending us a letter to the editor at [runner@csub.edu](mailto:runner@csub.edu)**

The Runner applauds CSU Bakersfield's Associated Students, Inc. for announcing that candidate applications are open nearly two months before the elections.

An email was sent out to students earlier this month with detailed election information attached.

Last year, ASI did not do enough on their end to promote their 2018 elections and it seems that they have learned from last year's experience to fully and properly promote this year's 2019 elections.

The Runner wrote a staff editorial during last year's elections addressing that all contestants had run unopposed because they waited two weeks before elections to announce that applications were open.

For the 2018 elections, ASI sent out an email to campus students on Feb. 23 announcing that the candidate filing period was open from Feb. 22 to March 7. The email letting students know that applications were open was already sent out a day late.

Campaigning was then held from March 8 to 22 and election voting was held March 21 and 22.

This resulted in the entire executive board to run unopposed. Elections were still held but there was no election experience if students only had one candidate choice for each position.

In the 2017 ASI elections, seats for president, executive vice president, and vice president of university affairs all ran unopposed. The voter turnout for that year was 7.5 percent.

This year, ASI has created a full month of events and information sessions to inform students about elections and this is exactly what the entire CSUB student body deserves.

Candidate filing period for this year's elections began Feb. 6 and ends March 22. That is almost two months for students to get familiar with ASI positions and make a decision on whether they want to run or

not.

Along with extending the time to fill out an application, ASI is being very informative and providing information to those interested. Sub-committee meetings are held throughout the week and students can be a part of them to learn what the positions are and what projects ASI is working on.

Those interested in running for president can meet with the current president on Feb. 28 to get a behind the scenes of what the ASI president's day is like.

Information on how to run a successful campaign is scheduled for March 11 through 15. Students can meet with the current ASI Board and all new candidates for an elections ice cream social on March 21.

Candidates will be able to campaign from March 25 to April 4 and be a part of a candidate debate on April 2 to convince their peers to vote for them on April 3 and 4.

This year, students cannot say they did not know they could run for an ASI Board position when ASI has nearly two months of election information sessions planned. There is no excuse to say you were not aware of the days you could vote.

It is crucial for students to know who

their student government representatives are because they are the voice of the students in front of the university's administration and at a state-wide level at the CSU Board of Trustees. They are also in office to provide resources for all students to engage them in political, educational, and social issues.

While it is ASI's job to fully represent every student equally, it is also the student body's job to speak out when they are unsatisfied with something affecting their time at CSUB.

Be involved and know and understand what goes on at the university you are spending your money on. Inform yourself on who your elected student government is and what they can do for you. Be aware of who your university administration is and what they are doing to ensure you achieve your academic goals.

In The Runner, we make it our responsibility and our duty to inform the campus community on issues that affect them.

Keep everyone in check. If they promised you to do something for this university, follow up with them and ask questions to make sure they are keeping their word.

## Runner Review: 'Alita: Battle Angel' brings the action

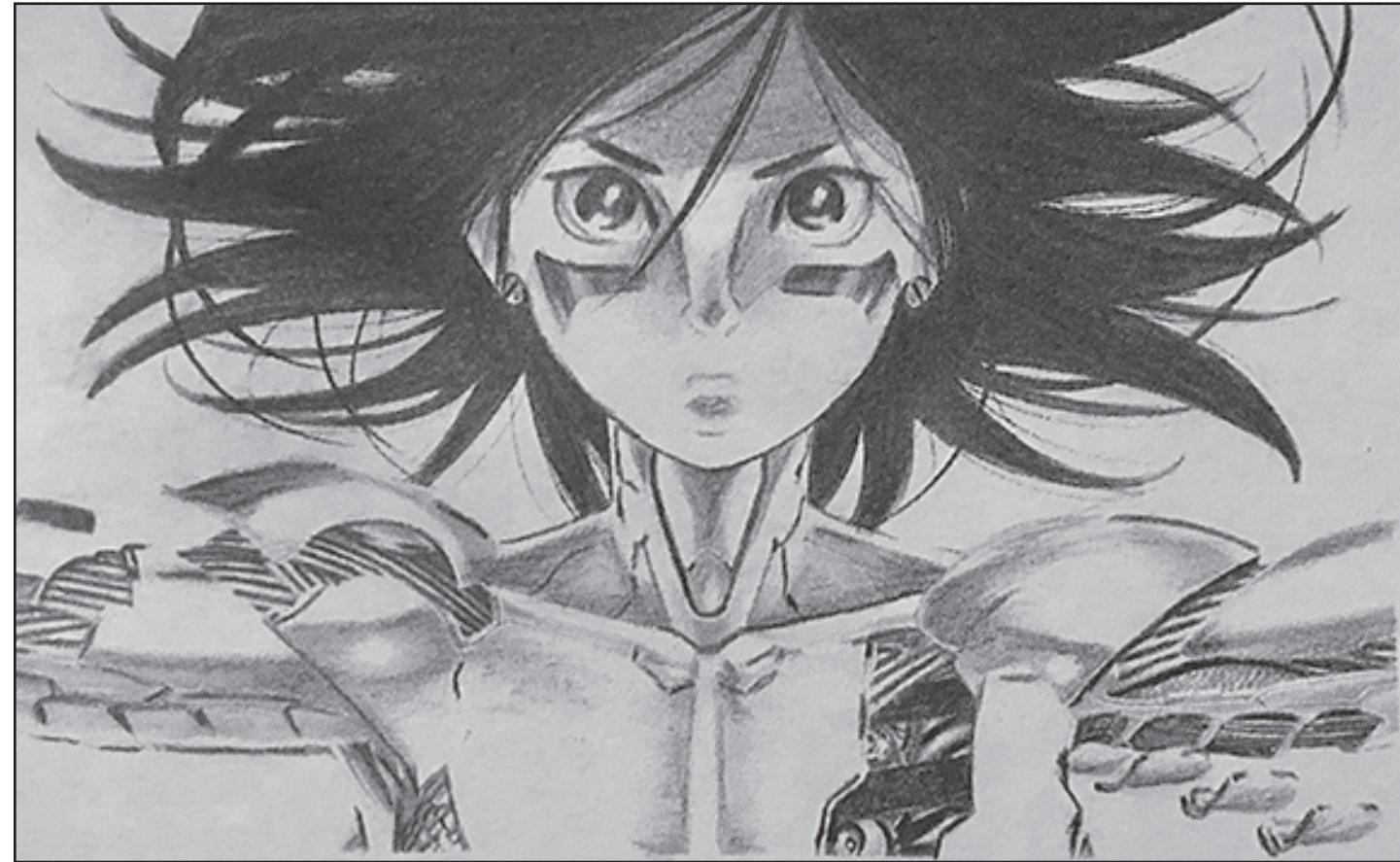
By Jorge Avila  
*Opinions Writer*

"Alita: Battle Angel," directed by Robert Rodriguez and produced by James Cameron, is a sci-fi fantasy action film based on a serialized Japanese comic of the same name. The story follows the adventures of a cyborg girl named Alita (played by Rosa Salazar) living in a futuristic wasteland in which poverty, oppression and social inequality are all prevalent.

The film establishes its setting and characters very early on and continues to sprinkle in bits of information throughout, which I found very effective for developing the world of "Alita: Battle Angel." However, the film's pacing suffers from something I would describe as information overload; characters are constantly throwing out names of people, places, and events and the plot is endlessly twisting and turning. By the time the film reaches its fifth supervillain, it's hard to remember exactly where the story was heading to begin with.

"Alita's" breakneck pace keeps things moving along well enough, thanks in part to its mind-boggling action sequences, but all its potentially interesting themes involving humanity and the advancement of technology are left undercooked in exchange for more plot and more action. Luckily, the action really does pay off, which leads into the film's strongest aspects.

I mentioned the film's superb action sequences, but the impact of these epic cyborg battles cannot be understated. The action all feels grand and epic yet brutal and visceral while still being easy to follow. In addition, director Rodriguez is



**'Alita: Battle Angel' stars Rosa Salazar as a cyborg girl named Alita**

never afraid to shy away from violence, providing some truly shocking moments that push the boundaries of the PG-13 rating.

The movie also boasts an exceptional lead character in Alita, played wonderfully by Rosa Salazar in her first motion capture performance. The effects used to bring Alita to life are jaw-dropping at times, and the character's exuberant personality makes her an immediately likable heroine. You'll find yourself cheering her on in

every battle, even if it is the 50th cyborg she's decimated.

Perhaps the film's strongest element, and the most convincing reason to see it, is its incredible use of visual effects. The effects in the film are stunning and worthy of being watched on the biggest screen you can find. I watched "Alita: Battle Angel" in IMAX 3D and it proved to be an incredible experience.

Currently, "Alita: Battle Angel" sits at a 60 percent rating on Rotten Tomatoes, a

popular review aggregator website, with critics having mostly mixed opinions on the film. New Zealand Herald writer Dominic Corry labels it "A dazzling assertion of cinematic ambition," while Top Critic Peter Howell calls it "More of a scavenger hunt than a movie," criticizing the film's overstuffed and convoluted plot.

The movie has its flaws, but its charming title character, inventive action sequences, and beautiful visual effects make it well worth a watch in theaters.

## Title IX Training Should Not Be Required

By Jessica Manzo  
Opinions Writer

Prior to taking the Title IX training course, I was unaware of how serious of an issue sexual harassment was. I had never been in the position or knew of anyone else who had. I knew the importance of learning about harassment but not the extremeness.

However, after taking the course, I soon after saw the reality of often encounters such as the ones explained and illustrated. I found out a close friend of mine was almost a part of an attack.

Students and faculty members on campus are well aware of the required Title IX online training course. Title IX provides training on preventing sexual misconduct. Topics covered in the course include anti-harassment laws and policies, awareness of the types of harassment, how to report an incident personally or even as a bystander, effects of trauma, etc.

"Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal law that prohibits sex discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal funds," according to the site Thomson Reuters.

I am a transfer student from Bakersfield College and I was never taught in depth

about the issues discussed in Title IX. Now given the resources, I can one day help someone going through a bad situation or even myself if I happen to be in that position. Some may disagree.

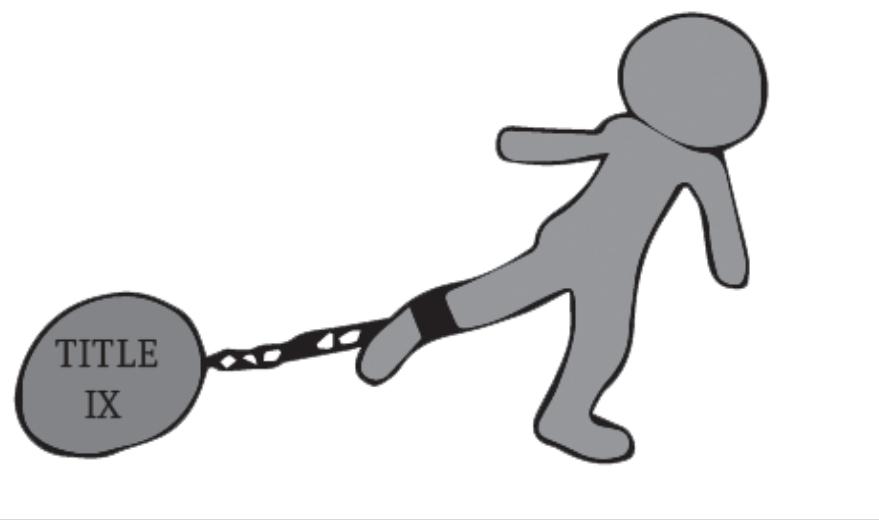
"I don't think it's helpful students do not take it seriously," Adamary Lopez, a communications major said.

"I think it is good to go through [Title IX], especially if you're not aware of the symptoms. If you know someone is suffering from harassment you can be able to potentially help them in taking the next steps," Daniel Martinez, Geology major states.

As most students know the importance of taking part in Title IX, if we fail to finish the course by the due date, we then have a hold that keeps us from enrolling in courses until we finish it.

"I get we should know about those things, but most people know about it already. I don't get the point of having a hold; instead, it should be a survey we take," Jaime Aguilar Lovera, whose major is undeclared explains.

Seconding the harsh consequences, Lopez explains that, since the online training course is for new and continuing students, "It should be incorporated in freshman seminar, so we do not have a hold for all



Aaron Horne/The Runner

our courses."

Having a hold, I would also say is a bit too much. To help with this though, I would suggest students take the course sooner rather than later, even before school starts, to avoid having the hold before you get too busy with other courses.

"One time, I forgot about it so I could not sign up for classes. But I didn't really suffer because after finishing, I still applied to the courses I needed to get into. I guess it's one way to make sure we're getting it done," Martinez states.

The hold ensures that students know how

serious an issue sexual misconduct is. Students and faculty need to be engaged with Title IX, and not just have the videos on mute or do other activities while the videos are playing.

"[Title IX] is important, everyone should feel safe, [instead of having] so-called 'friends' trying to get you drunk only to seduce you," Lovera states.

## Both sides-ism: who's right and who's wrong

By Allie Page  
Opinions Writer

For every person who has a strong opinion about an issue, no matter what the issue is, there is a person who insists that the truth is somewhere in the middle, or that both sides are equally valid. "Both sides" has become a cliché at this point, and while it can be fair to consider different viewpoints, there is such a thing as being too moderate.

In philosophy, the term "false equivalence" refers to when an individual believes that two sides to an argument have equal merit, even if one clearly has stronger evidence. According to the University of Tennessee at Martin, this belief can show up in the media in the form of the false balance fallacy. Those who espouse this belief may give undue credit to flimsy ideas for the sake of being fair or "balanced". In a sense, they're still biased – their bias is a moderate bias.

Americans continuously debate topics like climate change, LGBTQ rights, and vaccines, but sometimes, things aren't really up for debate. In a world of scientific knowledge, people can easily resolve these debates by looking at what the experts have to say.

For example, the debate about whether vaccines cause autism is still circling around conversations, even though actual experts have debunked this urban legend. According to the Centers for Disease Control, studies have found no correlation between shots and autism spectrum disorders. Still, anti-vaccination articles and debates are spreading like wildfire, and according to USA Today, measles out-

breaks are returning to the United States. Viewing scientific fact as debatable can cost children their lives.

Of course, moderate bias extends beyond science – it can apply to history and social issues as well. It can lead – and has led – to lackluster compromises. In the 1896 court case *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court justified racial segregation as long as the facilities were "separate, but equal." Thankfully, this case was overturned in 1954, but it shows how trying to compromise on human rights can set vulnerable people back. The answer to society's problems is not always a compromise, and sometimes, a compromise is not as neutral as one might think.

Yes, it is fair to acknowledge different positions on issues but sometimes, common sense should decide. Even today, some people believe that the Earth is flat, but that does not mean that schools should teach flat-Earth geography, or that news stations should host live debates about the Earth's shape. It also does not mean that the Earth is both flat and round (like a CD), and it definitely doesn't mean that both sides are wrong and that it's actually a cube.

Moderate bias is not an oxymoron. Ignoring the weight of evidence means that someone is unable to find a true balance – that is, to search for the truth instead of debating in circles or looking for half-baked compromises. Compromising might sound fair, but it can cost people their integrity, livelihood or basic human rights. The truth is not always in the middle, and treating myths as equal to truth can have drastic consequences.

## 2019 BETTY CREATIVE WRITING AWARDS

DEADLINE: APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 | 5:00 PM

Through the generosity of Dr. Stafford Betty, the 2019 Betty Creative Writing Awards are presented annually to honor the creative work of students at the undergraduate and graduate levels at California State University, Bakersfield and California State University, Bakersfield – Antelope Valley Campus. Awards in three categories will be presented:

### Poetry

• 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$150 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$50

### Short Story

• 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$150 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$50

### Drama

• 1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$150 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$100 • 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$50

For complete submission guidelines and official rules, visit:  
[https://www.csub.edu/english/Betty Creative Writing Awards/index.html](https://www.csub.edu/english/Betty%20Creative%20Writing%20Awards/index.html)  
 For more information, please contact Dr. Emerson Case at 654-6281 or at [ecase@csub.edu](mailto:ecase@csub.edu).

Awards sponsored by Dr. Stafford Betty, Sigma Tau Delta, and the Department of English

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THAT  
MATTER

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, BAKERSFIELD

## RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Rylee Smith

"What do you think about President Trump declaring a national emergency to build the wall?

**Americo Prado**  
History



"That's his Constitutional right to do. Congress has forfeited that right to the president."

**Myleesha Cox**  
Communications



"I don't think it's right. Why use that money to buy a wall? 40 percent of immigrants come by plane. It's a waste of money."

**Garrett Standridge**  
Business



"I don't have any feelings about it."

**Gabby Zendejas**  
Business



"I think it's bad because he should listen to the people that he's working for, the people of the United States and the Congress."

## A Different National Emergency Looms

By Rylee Smith  
Opinions Editor

You know when you're playing a board game and the person who's losing starts making up new rules?

That's what presidents do when they decide that, if Congress isn't going to do what they want, they'll just go ahead and do it themselves.

It's what Obama did when he created Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals in 2012, despite admitting in 2010 and 2011 that he was "not king," and couldn't ignore or change immigration laws without the approval of Congress, according to Politifact. He explained DACA as a mere extension of his executive ability to prioritize the enforcement of immigration laws. The key issue is that our elected officials in Congress did not make this law, despite having jurisdiction over immigration.

Obama appealed to Congress to take a certain action, and took matters into his own hands when they didn't. Trump is in the process of doing the same thing.

By making use of Section 1621 of the National Emergencies Act, Trump has the authority to declare a national emergency and take on certain powers that the act allows. This includes the ability "to draw resources from the Army's civil

works program to construct 'authorized civil works, military construction, and civil defense projects that are essential to the national defense,'" according to The National Review.

Since Trump declared a national emergency Feb. 15, he is within his rights under that law to put money towards strengthening the southern border with a wall. The thing is, though, that he shouldn't.

Don't get me wrong, I absolutely and wholeheartedly think we should build the wall. I can't think of one good reason to not regulate who comes into a country, and require them to come through a valid port of entry. Not protecting the border is a hill on which I just don't understand why Democrats are willing to die. But for some reason, a lot of other people in this country disagree with me on that. They voted for Congressmen and women who don't want to give the \$5 billion that the president needs to pay for the wall. Going against their will with a national emergency is the wrong way to build the wall.

The reason the government was shut down over this issue is because Trump expected to use funds granted by Congress. He wanted Congressional approval, because the system of checks and balances isn't supposed to allow for a president



Aqsa Khan/The Runner

going rogue.

The United States is wonderful because we don't believe that just because a president *thinks* he's in the right, that he just gets to make new laws. The people chose their legislating body, and that should be the only group of people making such decisions. Some argue that Trump's actions will allow the next president to declare a national emergency on climate change or gun control and take whatever action he or she deems necessary, but I believe that would have happened anyway.

Still, that's just one more reason that this is now Congress's pressing problem. There was originally a legislative veto to the president's powers under the National Emergencies Act, but it was declared un-

constitutional by the Supreme Court in the case INS v. Chadha (1983). So it's time that Congress takes some responsibility and makes a new law to fix this mess.

Congress doesn't like to make controversial decisions like this. That's why we didn't get a wall when Republicans had the power to build it, just last year. They would rather talk to reporters about how terrible it is that the other side doesn't agree with them and campaign for their next election. If they continue to do that, the president (whoever he or she may be) will take unilateral action.

If we continue to let such solitary actions slide, then we can't be surprised when presidents are less and less likely to admit they are "not king."

## Is Liam Neeson a racist or was he just angry?

By Norma Hernandez  
Digital Managing Editor

Have you ever found yourself in a moment where you thought of something stereotypical then thought to yourself you're glad that you didn't say it out loud?

66-year-old actor Liam Neeson, most famous for starring in "Taken," is currently facing backlash of something he thought and almost did 40 years ago.

Independent Newspaper interviewed Neeson, later appearing on "Good Morning America," about how he got into his character in his new movie "Cold Pursuit."

Neeson recalled a moment in his life when a close friend of his had been raped by a black man, and because of this incident he walked in the city for a week in the hope of starting a fight with any black

man so he could have a reason to kill this person.

"I went up and down areas with a cosh, hoping I'd be approached by somebody – I'm ashamed to say that – and I did it for maybe a week, hoping some [Neeson gestures air quotes with his fingers] 'black bastard' would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know? So that I could," another pause, "kill him," he told the Independent.

There's no doubt that Neeson had a racist thought. He generalized a whole race because of one person. However, he still chose not to act on his thoughts and came to his senses, even though he was filled with hate, rage and emotions, which is a horrible combination. That's what differentiates him from actual racists.

Actual racists believe that they are superior than other races and don't express any type of remorse. Neeson realized he was

in the wrong and sought out help.

"It shocked me, and it hurt me. I did seek help. I went to a priest, I aired my confession, I was reared a Catholic. I had two very, very good friends that I talked to," he said on "Good Morning America."

I had my own minor experience at my job. I work in retail and a homeless woman came to the store. I treated her like any other customer because I assumed she probably dealt with people treating her differently all the time. Then I saw her steal our Relay for Life donation can, and I was just disappointed. I felt disrespected and I felt like a fool. I thought to myself that I should have kept a closer eye on her or asked her to leave. I thought that homeless people were good for nothing and I had a whole new view on homeless people without really realizing it. I was upset and I generalized all homeless people because of this one woman. I called my manager

and I told her what happened, and her response opened my eyes. She said she must have really needed it.

Her words made me pause and think about how I reacted. I chose to judge, dislike, and think negatively of this individual.

In that moment, I realized how easy it can be to let your emotions build up hate. Neeson's reaction was far more aggressive, but he knew it was a moment of weakness.

Keep in mind he knew that he was wrong before he told anyone and before everyone started accusing him of being a racist.

I'm sure we've all had our moments where we thought something and realized how crazy, silly, or arrogant we must have sounded. In contrary to Neeson, our slip ups aren't broadcasted and our lives aren't affected because we're not famous.

## It's Diamond Time

### Softball players to watch

**Vanessa Villalvazo**  
Sports editor

Softball has opened their season with a win against UC Santa Barbara on Feb. 8. The Roadrunners beat the Gauchos with an ending result of 4-3. CSUB lost against Sacramento State University 0-6, but got back up the next day and beat Montana University 3-2 and Sacramento State University 10-2.

The Roadrunners headed down to Northridge where they played against Binghamton University and lost their first game against them 3-9, but then beat them the next game 8-4. They ended their game against Army West Point with another loss 3-4.

CSUB headed down to Santa Clara for two games where they lost the first one and won the second game.

They faced 3 tough losses in San Jose this past week and are looking forward to get some wins their next couple of games in St. George, Utah.



**Cydney Curran**

**Position:** Shortstop  
**Hidden Talent:** I'm the best card player on the team.  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would've pursued my career in basketball.  
**Goals after graduating:** Certified elementary teacher



**Nicole Curry**

**Position:** First base  
**Hidden Talent:** N/A  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would have joined the police academy and became a police officer.  
**Goals after graduating:** Police officer



**Julie Lewis**

**Position:** Pitcher  
**Hidden talent:** Cooking  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would focus more on my major business or would have gone with criminal justice.  
**Goals after graduating:** Own a business



**Ally Miller**

**Position:** Outfield  
**Hidden Talent:** Dog whisperer  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would still be going to school and have a job.  
**Goals after graduating:** Occupational therapist



**Paige Johnson**

**Position:** 3rd base  
**Hidden Talent:** Good singing voice in the car  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would be at a junior college trying to get an AA and working.  
**Goals after graduating:** HR position and get my real estate license



**Karah Wiseman**

**Position:** Catcher  
**Hidden Talent:** Eating super spicy food  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would be going to school and working to help out my family.  
**Goals after graduating:** Construction manager and find a job in the music industry



**Chris Hipa**

**Position:** Utility  
**Hidden Talent:** Hit either left or right handed  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would be in track or wrestling.  
**Goals after graduating:** Create a cross training facility for aspiring athletes in Hawaii



**Kayla Tadewosian**

**Position:** Infielder  
**Hidden Talent:** Performing singing and dancing duets with my teammate Ariana Felix  
**If I wasn't playing softball:** I would be at the beach.  
**Goals after graduating:** Elementary school teacher

### Baseball players to watch

**Vanessa Villalvazo**  
Sports editor

Baseball started with a historical win against UC Berkeley on Feb. 15, beating them for the first time ever with an ending result of 4-3.

The Roadrunners faced Pepperdine University next and it was a tough loss as CSUB lost 0-11. The next couple of games were in Arizona against Ball State University and the Roadrunners lost their first game 6-10, but they beat them the next game 7-6.

CSUB had its first home game on Feb. 19 against Cal Poly, but the night ended with a loss with a result of 1-7.

The Roadrunners headed down to San Francisco on Feb 22. for three games and unfortunately lost all of them. They are on the road to Santa Clara for the next couple of games.

**Meet the rest of the players online at The Runner Online.com**



**Daniel Carrizosa**

**Position:** Infielder  
**Hidden Talent:** Play baritone and saxophone  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be playing college football or go into culinary school.  
**Goals after graduating:** Pediatric doctor and own a pet pig



**Eric Charles**

**Position:** Outfield  
**Hidden Talent:** Dog Whisperer.  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be helping my father run our Steel and metal fabrication business.  
**Goals after graduating:** Run my father's business on my own.



**Will Picketts**

**Position:** Infielder  
**Hidden Talent:** I can juggle and yo-yo  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be playing basketball in the Philippines  
**Goals after graduating:** I'm going to get my master's degree



**Jassen Oliver**

**Position:** Outfield  
**Hidden Talent:** Reading people and their body language.  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would spend time with my family and hopefully own a car to work on.  
**Goals after graduating:** Start a family and get a quality job



**Cole Valletta**

**Position:** Outfield  
**Hidden Talent:** Good pickle ball player  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be a professional fisherman  
**Goals after graduating:** Go to graduate school



**Davontè Butler**

**Position:** Right handed pitcher  
**Hidden Talent:** I can cut hair  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be a haircut barber  
**Goals after graduating:** Go to a barbering program to become a licensed barber



**Alexander Val Gonzales**

**Position:** Catcher  
**Hidden Talent:** Unbelievable hook in bowling  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be hunting  
**Goals after graduating:** To travel and get involved with youth baseball



**Gavin Haimovitz**

**Position:** Infielder  
**Hidden Talent:** Spot a penny from 500ft away  
**If I wasn't playing baseball:** I would be working and fishing  
**Goals after graduating:** Get drafted or create my own company.

## Rogic has dreams of Olympic gold

By Chris Burdick  
Assistant Sports Editor

50 Meters. That's how far a competitive swimmer is from glory. Just 50 meters. Every second counts. Every breath you take. Every stroke gets you closer inches to your goal.

Pushing through the water faster and faster. Having no idea how far your opponents are away from the finish. Just focusing on the goal. Touch the finish line first and leave winning the gold.

Kris Rogic is a Sophomore swimmer for the California State University, Bakersfield Roadrunners and holds multiple Croatian National swimming titles.

Rogic's parents, Michael and Suzana Rogic, started taking him to swim practices when he was just six years old.

"They wanted me to go into sports because it's healthy in the growing process," Rogic said. "But my mom didn't want me to get injured, so she put me in swim since it's the only one with no contact."

He expressed his love for the sport early, and the older Rogic became, the more serious he began to take it. Coming to the decision at the age of 9 that swimming was the sport for him.

Rogic attended Privatna Klascina Gimnazija in his hometown of Zagreb, Croatia for high school. He competed in various events but had a focus in the 200-meter individual medley. At 15 years old, Rogic completed competed in the 2016 Croatian Swimmer Nationals in this event and posted a time of 2:08.22.

"At about 16, I developed the goal of coming to America to swim," Rogic said. "Every swimmers goal is to swim for an American college."

Rogic was first committed to Florida State University but due to some scholarship issues decided not to attend FSU. This gave Director of CSUB swimming Chris Hanson a chance to recruit him.

Rogic decided to attend CSUB thanks to a little help from a fellow Croatian native that was swimming for the Roadrunners at the time, Lovre Soric. Rogic said, "He told me a lot about it here, and how coming here changed his life. And I believed it 100 percent."

A decision that he does not regret one bit. "I love the location actually. I feel like it's a perfect balance." Rogic said about Bakersfield. "We are close enough to LA and the beaches but far enough away from the traffic and huge amounts of people. I fell in love. Bakersfield is my 2<sup>nd</sup> home now."

Rogic was recruited for his talents in the individual medley. But Chris Hanson decided to push him to make the transition to the backstroke events. A transition that made a huge splash in Rogic's Freshman year at CSUB.

Rogic set the school record for the 100-meter backstroke placing a time of 48.12 and taking a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish in the Western Athletic Conference in that event. He also holds the 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest time in the 200-meter backstroke in CSUB school history, clocking a time of 1:47.27.

Rogic was chosen 1<sup>st</sup> team All-WAC for the backstroke and also selected for the All-WAC Academic team honors for his efforts in the classroom.

His swimming season did not stop there. Rogic went right back to the grind, practicing for the Croatian Nationals that summer back home. Rogic was able to take home four national titles in the Summer of 2018. Placing first in the 50-meter backstroke, 100-meter backstroke, and 200-meter backstroke as well as the 200-meter individual medley.

"He's really grown. His work ethic has grown." Swimming Director Chris Hanson said about Rogic. "Last year coming from Croatia was different. He did it all, and with a smile, but I could tell it was a struggle."

Hanson said the focus coming into



JJ Reed/The Runner  
CSUB swimmer Kris Rogic and CSUB Swimming Director Chris Hanson practicing for the upcoming WAC Championships on Feb. 21st, 2019.

Rogic's Sophomore year was to develop his backstroke. "After doing so well this summer you can see the motivation in his eyes." Hanson said.

"He's been a leader, he's not a captain but he is a leader on the team for sure." Hanson said about Rogic. "People look up to him, they know what he has done and that we are shooting for the World Championships, so they give him respect."

Rogic's teammate and former roommate Alex Dragan said that it is the intensity that Rogic brings to every meet and practice that sets the tone for the team.

"I remember in our meet against California Baptist University for his 50-meter backstroke in our 200-meter medley relay." Dragan said. "He came in when we were all tired and threw down a great time and really set the tone for the rest of us to do the same."

"Not only does he drive us, but I think we push him. It's always good to have a guy like him to show us where we need to be." Dragan said about Rogic's effect on the team. "Without him on the team we

wouldn't have a marker to see where we all need to be if we want to get to the next level."

Recently, Rogic has reached a whole new level of competition, taking on swimmers at the Olympic level in the TYR Pro Swimming Classic in Knoxville, Tennessee. Rogic competed in the 100-meter backstroke where he placed 16<sup>th</sup> overall with a time of 58.73.

Along with the WAC championships coming up on February 28<sup>th</sup> in Houston, Texas, Hanson said there are two more TYR pro swimming meets this year that Rogic will attend. One in Richmond, Virginia in April and the other will be held in Clovis, California in June.

It is Hanson and Rogic's hope that these meets will help sharpen Rogic's skills in order to reach his final goal for this year, to qualify for 2019 the World Championships held in North Korea.

Where Rogic said he will be proudly sporting his CSUB hat while competing against the world's best.

## 'Runners come up short on Homecoming night

By Lekendrick Ellis  
Reporter

With a packed crowd in attendance for Senior Night, the CSU Bakersfield students were roaring in excitement for the Homecoming night.

The Icardo Center was filled with excitement as the Roadrunners looked for the win against the California Baptist University Lancers.

CSUB Seniors Damiyne Durham, Ricky Holden, and Bray Barnes were walked out to center court with their families before the game and received standing ovations for their dedication in their four year careers playing for the university's men's basketball team.

Cal Baptist got off to a quick 10-3 lead early in the first half, until CSUB Guard Jarkel Joiner hit two back-to-back three point shots, getting the crowd going and gaining momentum. This brought the Lancers lead to just 13-9.

"[I am] honored to be coaching the young men that dedicated themselves to the program."

Coach Rod Barnes

Strong and physical play down low in the paint from both teams was keeping the game close until about the six-minute mark when Cal Baptist went on a strong 8-0 run, increasing the lead to 33-15.

The Lancers were able to control the game with their offensive rebounding. This gave them the extra possessions

necessary to help control the tempo of the game and create second chance points. The Lancers had an 11 point lead over the Roadrunners with the score being 44-33 at the end of the first half.

Durham started off the second half with a good jump shot to gain momentum for CSUB bringing the lead down to 9 points.

But with Cal Baptist hot shooting, the Roadrunners were never able to catch up and take the lead, leading to the Lancers taking the win 72-58.

"They made us play their style of basketball the game was played at their tempo."

Coach Rod Barnes said. "They got hot and made good shots. When a team scores 44 in one period it's going to be hard to win that game"

In the postgame interview senior forward James Suber said "they came out and got a lead early this is that time of year when the dogs come out and they wanted to beat us more since we beat them last game at there house".

Coach Barnes made some comments about the seniors playing on Senior night.

He spoke about affects the night had on his players and how it felt to see his son playing his last home game. Barnes said that he could not be more proud of his son and how he is just thankful for the season. "[I am] honored to be coaching the young men that dedicated themselves to the program," said Barnes.

Coach Barnes also mentioned that he still believes the Roadrunners are in a place where they can beat anyone and feels confident in playing in the WAC tournament in Las Vegas.

The CSUB Roadrunners have now lost back to back games and are looking to bounce back against Grand Canyon on Saturday, March 2 in Phoenix, Arizona

with only three games remaining before the WAC tournament in Las Vegas starting March 14.



photo credit: gorunners.com  
Senior Guard Damiyne Durham shooting over Cal Baptist defender on February 23, 2019

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