

# THE RUNNER

California State University, Bakersfield

Vol. 41, No. 17

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MEMORIAL

## Mourning CSUB alum



CSUB alumna Elizabeth Asencio's friends shared memories, hugs and condolences with her mother at the memorial service hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma sorority. To read the full story and look at more photos, go to Page 2.

Alejandra Flores/The Runner

CAMPUS

## Interim steps in after VP resigns

By Graham C Wheat  
Features Editor

The recent resignation of the vice president for University Advancement has led to a temporary in-house hiring for the position. David Melendez abruptly resigned for personal reasons on Feb. 12.

Now, former director of development for the last three years within University Advancement, Victor Martin, has stepped into the position of interim vice president of University Advancement.

Martin was hand selected by President Horace Mitchell for what is being called a “transitional period” for the position. Martin could not comment on Melendez’s resignation, saying, “I understand it was motivated by personal reasons, and those I couldn’t comment on and don’t know much about, quite

honestly.” “This transition happened a few weeks ago,” said Martin, referring to Melendez’s resignation and the timeframe for his appointment. “Dr. Mitchell reached out to me and said that we are going through a transition, and invited me to serve as interim vice president for University Advancement and interim executive director for the CSUB Foundation.”

Martin was relieved to have the backing from President Mitchell, and to operate as a full director instead of a limited oversight position.

Martin said that President Mitchell told him to “act as you would” if in the full capacity.

“That was one of my first questions to Dr. Mitchell was what were his expectations,” said Martin. “Would I serve as interim with some limited responsibilities waiting for us



Photo by csub.edu

**Victor Martin was promoted on Feb. 12.**

to fill the position, or would I be acting as director?”

Martin is making the best of the position and the opportunity in the short time he has been interim vice president.

While only about four weeks into the position, he is trying to gain ground.

“I am constantly evaluating every part of our operation on a

greater depth than I would have access to earlier. I have a very clear vision of where I want to take the department within the next 10 months,” said Martin.

He has plans to keep consistency in the office of University Advancement after some of the recent shake-ups.

“I am going to spend a lot of time assessing where people are positioned, what their strengths are and try and organize the staff and our resources in such a way that it compliments our existing abilities and enhances opportunities for us.”

He is looking to fill some positions within University Advancement at some point in the future too.

Not including his old position that is now vacant, Martin noted a pending offer for a director of alumni engagement.

See **MARTIN** Page 4

MEETING



Chris Mateo/The Runner

ASI voted on the proposal of a \$51 annual parking fee increase at the meeting on Friday.

## ASI approves \$186 parking fee

By Esteban Ramirez  
Editor-in-Chief

After weeks of back-and-forth discussions, the Associated Students Inc. board of directors approved the proposal for a \$51 annual parking fee increase next school year to make a new parking lot at CSU Bakersfield during its meeting on Friday.

The ASI board approved to have the new lot be in Parking Lot K (Lot “K3”) and agreed to increase the semester parking fee from \$67.50 to \$93 and the annual fee from \$135 to \$186.

Twelve members of the board voted in favor of the parking fee increase and having the new parking spots in Lot “K3” and six members voted against it.

One of the conditions that ASI proposed is that this lot would have to be built before any other lot.

Another condition is that

“appropriate members of the university shall include students in every conversation and or meeting in regards to future development of parking.

“I’ve heard a lot of positive responses,” said Vice President of University Affairs Anish Mohan, who voted for the fee increase. “They do want to increase the parking lots and are willing to pay the extra fee. Right now, we don’t have the need for it, but our population is increasing fast and I (didn’t) want to be the reason why people have a problem with this in the future.”

The money for the parking fees go into maintenance and up-keep for the parking lots.

During the meeting, Director of Legislative Affairs Pedro Naveiras, who voted against it, said that the increase could be another barrier for students to come to CSUB.

## ASI execs propose limiting candidates

By Esteban Ramirez  
Editor-in-Chief

Associated Students Inc. President Mike Kwon proposed changing the requirements of running in ASI elections and changing director positions as the board discussed making changes to the bylaws during its board of directors meeting on Friday as

Kwon suggested the addition of a clause to the bylaws that those running for executive office positions can only run if they are current ASI members.

“We can’t have this up-and-down change in leadership of ASI,” said Kwon during the meeting. “There has to be some sort of consistent and continuing efforts to improving ASI

and the student experience.” Kwon added that no students outside of the ASI board could run for an executive position.

Director of Legislative Affairs Pedro Naveiras suggested that it should include former and current ASI members.

However, not every director thought it would be the right decision to just limit it to former and current directors.

Director General Studies Ruth Orozco said she thought the change was unfair to the students.

“I feel like mostly the people that do run have been former directors, and just eliminating that option of the students running, it just makes us look bad,” said Orozco.

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CAMPUS

# Phi Sigma Sigma mourns death of sister



Friends of Elizabeth Ascencio console her mother at Sunday's memorial service at the Student Union Multipurpose Room.

Photos by Alejandra Flores/The Runner



An arrangement of flowers and a photo of Elizabeth Ascencio adorned the memorial service hosted by Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

“She definitely lived life to the fullest and battled every situation to the best she could.”  
-Suzy Mendoza

By Alejandra Flores  
Photographer

Friends and family members gathered together Sunday afternoon in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Union to remember the life of Elizabeth Ascencio, CSUB Bakersfield alumna, who died of cancer on February 17.

The memorial service was held by sorority Phi Sigma Sigma for friends, family, and acquaintances to speak, pray, and share memories of Ascencio who was as a member of the sorority.

“Liz lived a beautiful life,” said Suzy Mendoza, roommate

and best friend of Ascencio. “She definitely lived life to the fullest and battled every situation to the best she could.”

The memorial service began with a slideshow full of pictures of Ascencio’s life. Slide by slide attendees of the memorial saw photos of her graduation, moments shared with family, and Phi Sigma Sigma.

Chapter advisor Christina Strong and other sorority sisters led the memorial.

They spoke and shared memories of Ascencio with the people attending the event.

“As a mom I cannot speak for the pain that you feel,” said

Christina Strong. “We want to let you know that you raised a beautiful soul.”

At the end of the service, Ascencio’s mother rose to speak and gave her thanks to everyone who attended the event, but was too overwhelmed to continue.

Once the service ended, friends and sorority members lined up to hug, give gifts, take photos and share memories with Ascencio’s parents.

“We’ll never forget her, she will always be in our heart,” were the last words spoken by Ascencio’s father at Sunday’s service.



Family and friends gathered together Sunday afternoon at a memorial service for CSUB alumna Elizabeth Ascencio.

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Ben Patton/The Runner

Beliefs clash at Pro-Life Club's abortion booth. After taking over 80 signatures, the CSU Bakersfield campus was split 60 to 40 on whether abortion should remain legal, with the majority voting to keep it legally available. (From left to right) Catherine Wurts of Justice for All Wichita debates with CSUB junior Anthony Hinojosa as Sierra Seaward of Right to Life Central California has a similar conversation with CSUB senior Josh Lofy.

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**ABOUT**  
The Runner is a laboratory newspaper published weekly, in conjunction with the Communications Department at California State University, Bakersfield.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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CAMPUS

CSUB enters race discussion

By Patricia Rocha  
News Editor

CSU Bakersfield President Horace Mitchell shared personal anecdotes about his experiences with race issues at a Brown Bag discussion about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

He posed questions to the audience that sparked discussion about current social inequality issues such as the Black Lives Matter movement, racial profiling and inequality in the criminal justice system.

Mitchell took a moment to describe a conversation many black parents have with their children.

“When we lived in Irvine...the African American population was about 2 percent,” Mitchell began. “When my son started to drive, I was very clear with him. I said, ‘Always do the right thing, and if you get stopped for some reason, don’t even argue about it.

“If you start arguing that’s resisting arrest.’ I said, ‘Just do what you’re asked to do and if that is wrong, we will deal with that in a legal manner.’”

This type of miscommunication has been the case in a number of high-profile shootings involving unarmed black men in the past few years.

“I’d rather deal with that from a legal approach separately,” Mitchell told his son, “than to have somebody shoot you because they said, well, they didn’t know whether or not you had a gun or something like that.”

One solution Mitchell proposed was to make sure qualified people are put into law enforcement positions, people that “understand that

this is a service role not simply a role where you have a license to beat people up.”

He emphasized this is not an issue of all police officers behaving this way, but “there are some that do.”

He expressed concern with other aspects of the criminal justice system as well.

“Right here in Kern County, I discovered that we have more prisons per capita than I’ve seen anywhere else,” said Mitchell. “Men, particularly of color, are overrepresented in these penal situations.

“There are some statistics that indicate, for example, that there are more black males under the jurisdiction of courts or the criminal justice system than there are black men in college and some of that has to do with differential application of laws.”

According to a 2013 article titled “Black Male Disproportionality in the Criminal Justice Systems of the USA, Canada, and England: a Comparative Analysis of Incarceration”, by Bryan Warde of the “Journal of African American Studies,” black men make up only 6 percent of the population but make up “28 percent of all arrests and 40 percent of all men held in prison and jail in 2008.

“One in three black males born in the USA today can expect to spend time in prison, compared to one in six Hispanic males and one in 17 white males,” Warde wrote.

This unequal policing of people of color inspired the Black Lives Matter movement, born when activists Patrice Cullors, Alicia Garza, and Opal Tometi created the social media hashtag #BlackLivesMatter in 2013.

Mitchell addressed the push-back from those who reply with the argument, “all lives matter.”

“The whole idea of black lives matter was to say, in a way, black lives *also* matter,” Mitchell said. “It was understood that other lives matter. This was black lives *also* matter.”

Mitchell posed the following questions to spark discussion: “What are some of the issues of our day that we need to be confronting? What might have been Dr. King’s approach?”

CSUB’s Director of Development Melissa Watkins quickly answered the last question.

“He would say, ‘Get out there and vote. Use your voice,’” said Watkins, reminding the audience that voting rights for people of color have only been around for 50 years, when the Voting Rights Act was signed into law in 1965.

Vocalizing and addressing inequality seemed to be the majority solution within the discussion.

“You also have to realize silence is submission,” said communications major and Campus Programming Assistant Lea Molina. “... the small things are what make the big picture. When someone says something that just doesn’t make sense to you or just isn’t right, I think it’s our job to say something about it.”

This willingness to discuss these race-based issues is a trait communications faculty member Elizabeth Jackson hopes to instill in the students who take her classes.

“My philosophy is that you have to teach the skill set... [meaning] you don’t turn a blind eye, you actively engage,” said Jackson in a separate interview.

In her 30 years of teaching, 27 of those at CSUB, she has seen the impact of her work on students who would otherwise shy away from any sort of confrontation.

“[Students] understand that this is the place to do it. If not now, when? If not here, in a safe protected environment in a university, where?”

According to the College Portrait of Undergraduate Education website, professors of color make up only 32 percent of CSUB’s faculty.

“If faculty members were more willing to embrace the issues of the day, rather than exhibit a politeness protocol around what should be very potentially stimulating classroom discussions, students would... be more aware of what the topics are and perhaps willing to be more proactive.”

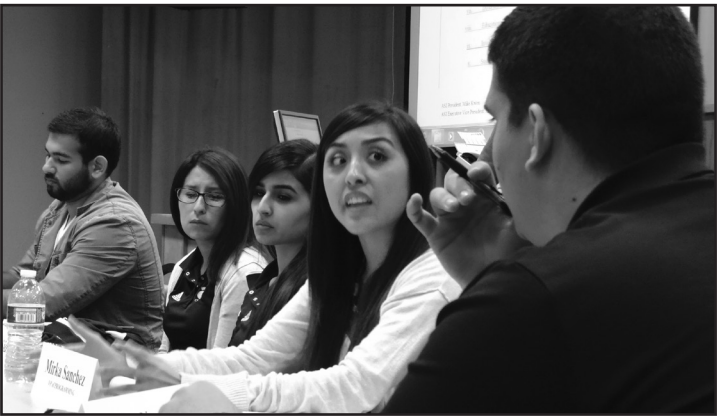
She emphasized that these discussions are not easy, but uncomfortable topics surrounding racism, classism, sexism, homophobia and xenophobia need to be discussed.

With all of these issues at the forefront of news media, CSUB is now doing its part to inspire these conversations with the Multicultural Alliance and Gender Equity Resource Center, scheduled to debut in Fall of 2016 in the Rohan building of student housing.

Though plans for the center are still in the discussion stages, it is set to be a resource for discussion on sexual assault, civil rights, gender equality, and multiculturalism.

To read the full story visit our website at [therunneronline.com](http://therunneronline.com)

MEETING



Chris Mateo/The Runner  
ASI board members discuss why eliminating the vice president of external affairs position is an unwise choice at the meeting on Friday.

ASI will decide fate of positions

[BYLAWS, Page 1] “Also, let’s say some of us don’t want to run for a position and no one is running for it, what are we going to do in that situation?” Orozco said.

Kwon said it has to do with finishing the prior projects. “I’m hesitant with students that come into the executive positions with high hopes, but don’t get the full demand of what the position entails,” he said.

Upper Division Director Charmaine Parubrub said that she doesn’t want to limit the students out of the ASI board.

Additionally, Kwon suggested the idea of changing positions such as director of ASI Antelope Valley into liaison positions, and proposed the idea of eliminating the position for vice president for external affairs.

Vice President of Programming Mirka Sanchez didn’t agree with the idea of removing the position for vice president of external affairs.

“That doesn’t make sense in my book,” Mirka Sanchez said.

“Like, why wouldn’t we want one? Currently, we are doing fine without it, but we don’t know what is entail for next year. I don’t (see) the need to take it out.”

Kwon said that the responsibilities of that position wouldn’t be eliminated but would be disbursed into other groups on the board.

Director of Social Sciences and Education Nicole Mirkazemi said that the campus just isn’t interested in advocacy right now.

“There are students that are (interested) in advocacy but there isn’t enough need to allocate a vice-president position,” said Mirkazemi. “It’s unfortunate, I wish it were different but that’s just how are campus is right now. In the future, I think we can always add that position.”

ASI decided to table the discussion until the meeting this Friday. The board of directors meets every Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the ITV Studio Center C.

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CAMPUS

# SRC gets a new coordinator, Bank

By Annie Russell  
Assistant Features Editor

CSU Bakersfield has welcomed in a new Fitness and Wellness Coordinator Leah Bank this winter quarter. Bank is now a part of the Student Recreation Center staff, bringing in a new perspective of wellness. Her flying trapeze experience and past jobs in fitness stemmed her passion for health.

For 10 to 15 years Bank has been a flying trapeze participant and instructor. Bank also worked as a group exercise instructor immersing herself in hard work with much dedication to her job.

“I’ve been a group exercise instructor for about six years, so that’s how I initially got interested in the field of fitness and wellness,” said Bank.

Prior to moving to Bakersfield, Bank was a graduate student at Montclair State University in New Jersey. She often spent time as a graduate assistant teaching undergraduate classes in fitness assessments.

Bank moved to Bakersfield in January and shortly after started working at the SRC.

“I really like that, one, I am able to work with students every day. It’s really one of my passions,” Bank said.

One of Bank’s goals as a Fitness and Wellness Coordinator is to reach as many students as possible to use the services provided in the SRC, such as attending the group exercise



Photo by the SRC Facebook page  
**Leah Bank is the new Fitness and Wellness Coordinator.**

classes, and utilizing the personal trainers at the gym. Students can easily access the group exercise schedule on the CSUB webpage under the SRC tag, where they can also find the gym hours and class descriptions.

Bank hopes that students will recognize that “fitness is a part of our overall wellness.” Bank oversees multiple groups during the day, which keeps her constantly busy and on her feet.

Human biology major Alexandra Thomason, who works in the SRC, said that Bank was a great addition to the team. “She really is energized and has a positive attitude toward

everything she does,” said Thomason.

Some of the areas that Bank oversees includes the SRC’s group exercise department, personal trainers, fitness advisers, floor monitors and the wellness department.

Bank makes sure each area is doing their job accurately and efficiently.

“It’s definitely been a busy transition for me. But I’m working with a great team of co-workers who support me. A great boss who is mentoring me in my position and then students who are here because they’re also passionate about fitness so that makes my job easier,” said Bank.

CAMPUS

# Interim VP talks future

[MARTIN, Page 1]  
“I think it’s very important that we stay engaged with our alums. We have over 45,000 of them, it’s just a logical choice, they should be connected back with us,” said Martin.

As for the future of the permanent position, Martin is not letting that cloud a vision he has for the current time he is spending as interim.

He said he would welcome the opportunity if it arose, but is concerned with having a smooth transitional period.

“I really am focused on the transition. On having us operate smoothly and more efficiently and headed in the right direction. I really want to operate exactly as I would in the position without any thought about the permanent role.”

CAMPUS

# A Fox in The Night



Photos by Ben Patton/  
The Runner

**One of CSU Bakersfield’s resident kit foxes is found scavenging some food. The endangered animals are a usual sight on campus and prowl the nights regularly.**





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MUSIC



Ben Patton/The Runner

Alejandro Saucedo performs the “So-Hay Shuffle” on March 4 in the Doré Theatre. This was the 40th Jazz Jam for CSUB.

# Jazz Jam blares in Doré

By Jennifer Aguilar  
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield hosted its 40th Annual Jazz Jam, directed by Jim Scully, in the Doré Theatre on March 4.

“Jazz music is such a melting pot of culture that there are tons of things I appreciate about it,” Scully said. “The intellectual nature of the music, the spontaneity of the art, is very engaging as a performer.

Scully said that he loved that “musicians are all expected to be composers of jazz.”

“An improvised solo is composition, so musicians are held to a high standard of not just reading music and playing it ‘correctly’ but also of being able to compose in the moment during a piece. That’s so special to jazz and it’s something I appreciate immensely,” Scully said.

This was Scully’s fifth Jazz Jam that he has put together.

“We just want to express the music to the audience,” said Scully. Scully said it took them 90 minutes a day for over ten weeks to prepare for the show.

This year’s special guest, Aaron Langston, was featured in the grand performance.

This was Langston’s first time joining CSUB.

“(I got) great hospitality, students were receptive. It was great,” he said.

CSUB students came to support and enjoy the show on their Friday night.

“I thought the environment was very relaxing. I enjoyed it. If the 41st Annual Jazz Jam is free, I will watch it again,” psychology major Vanessa Castro said.

“This is my third time coming to watch the Jazz Jam, and I have to say every year they play a new piece that catches my interest deeper into jazz music, and makes me want to come again the following year. I really enjoyed my Friday night today,” Carole Arreola said.

“It’s my first time attending the jazz performance. I cannot believe they already had 40 of them. They give out a relaxing and fun atmosphere and vibe to the crowd. I had fun,” theatre major Deon Danehy said.

COLUMN

# ‘Dancing’ doesn’t miss a step for 22

By Annie Russell  
Assistant Features Editor

The time is approaching for a season of beautifully choreographed dances and stunning outfits.

Season 22 of “Dancing with the Stars” will premiere on March 21.

The new cast will be revealed on March 8 live on Good Morning America. But it has been confirmed that Fuller House star Jodie Sweetin will be one of the contestants, alongside Good Morning America weather anchor Ginger Zee and actress Mischa Barton.

I am definitely excited to watch the new season and see what new dances the professional dancers will come up with. Last season was my first year watching “Dancing with the Stars”, purely because I had read that Australian conservationist Bindi Irwin, daughter of the late Steve Irwin, was cast in the season.

Every Monday I would glue my eyes to the television set rooting for my favorite stars to get a score of ten.

Afterward I’d dial up the number to vote for team Bindi and Derek and a few other stars who I thought did a good job.

Irwin’s energy and optimism was out of this world and showed through every single

one of her dances. She is truly a role model who was captivating and breathtaking to watch.

Bindi Irwin and Derek Hough took home the Mirrorball Trophy last season. Irwin is now back home in Australia continuing to work as a conservationist keeping her dad’s legacy alive at the Australia Zoo.

Unfortunately professional dance expert Derek Hough will not be continuing on with “Dancing with the Stars” this season. According to UsWeekly, after 16 seasons of competing, Hough is taking a break to pursue his dreams of being on Broadway.

Hough’s sister Julianne Hough will also not be returning to the judge panel alongside Carrie Ann Inaba and Bruno Tonioli.

Nonetheless, the season should be nothing short of entertaining, and thrilling, placing viewers at the edge of their seats.

“Dancing with the Stars” will also be returning in the fall, having been renewed like so many other great shows.

My only complaint with season 22 is the fact Jodie Sweetin is not paired up with “Dancing with the Stars” dancer Val Chmerkovskiy, who Fuller House fans may have recognized from his guest appearance on the show.

Other than that I am content and ready to watch the stars battle it out on the dance floor.

STUDENT LIFE

# Some ask for prayers when trying to study for final exams

By Haleigh Earls and  
Abigail Youngblood  
The Runner Staff

It’s that time of the quarter again where students reach the point of maximum stress, as final course grades are usually determined by how well they do on their final exam.

These exams are typically the most daunting task of the entire quarter, which can cause students to be overwhelmed with stress and exhaustion, as their tired bodies and brains

attempt to study in hopes that they don’t fail.

If there’s one thing that’s for certain about studying for finals, it’s that cramming and procrastination tend to go hand-in-hand.

Junior Danielle Hernandez does just that.

“I completely ignore studying until the day before, then just cram to the point of giving up and then hope for the best,” said Hernandez.

Senior Chelsea Lowes also finds these techniques best

when preparing for exams.

“I procrastinate then cram... Not the best techniques, but I’ve gotten this far,” Lowes said.

Cramming for a short amount of time a few days before finals also works for sophomore Maribel Gutierrez.

“I stare at it, highlight what I’m supposed to study, wait until two days before, study for 30 minutes, then procrastinate until the day before. Then I get tired and pray to God that all goes well,” said Gutierrez.

Prayer is choice technique of sophomore Madison Miller, who procrastinates and crams the night before an exam.

“I basically put it in God’s hands because the Lord knows I’m going to need his help on them every time,” Miller said.

Senior Gabe Hinojosa chooses to ignore thinking about finals until the day of.

“I cram 30 minutes prior to an exam and then just wing it,” said Hinojosa.

Procrastinating and cramming are not techniques that are

utilized by only the students of today.

When looking at a story about finals from a 1990 edition of the CSU Bakersfield Runner, students of that generation also used these last-minute techniques to prepare for final exams.

Wayne Marden, age 21 at the time, is a prime example that these approaches to preparing for finals have been used for many years.

“To keep a minimum of stress throughout the week I don’t

study until the last minute, therefore reducing the number of days I have to cope with stress,” Marden said.

Chris Shannon, 19, does the same.

“I cram and hope for the best,” said Shannon.

Like the students of today, 24 year-old Bill Goessman also used these styles in preparing for finals.

“I usually wait two days before I have them and then cram,” Goessman said.

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Gender Matters  
Student Research Symposium

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jacob Tobia (genderqueer advocate)

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual CSUB Gender Matters Student Research Symposium will be held on Friday, May 13, 2016 at California State University, Bakersfield. The event is an interdisciplinary student (undergraduate and graduate) research symposium highlighting women, gender, and sexuality studies. Submissions for oral presentations (5-7 pages), poster presentations (500-word abstract), and works of art (500-word description) should be emailed to Dr. Debra Jackson, Coordinator of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, at [djackson9@csub.edu](mailto:djackson9@csub.edu).

Submission Deadline is April 15, 2016.

This conference is sponsored by the CSUB Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program and Club GEN (Gender Equality Now), with funding provided by Associated Students, Inc. through an Instructionally Related Activities grant.

CSU Bakersfield

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WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK...

UC RIVERSIDE SERIES  
FRIDAY, MARCH 11  
6 PM  
SATURDAY, MARCH 12  
6 PM  
SUNDAY, MARCH 13  
1 PM

BEACH VOLLEYBALL  
FRIDAY, MARCH 11  
VS. CAL POLY  
3 PM  
SAN JOSE STATE  
5 PM

SAVE THE DATE  
BASEBALL VS. OKLAHOMA  
HARDT FIELD

MARCH 17 - 6 PM  
FIRST 500 FANS RECEIVE A "KISS ME, I'M A ROADRUNNER" BUTTON!

MARCH 18 - 6 PM  
MARCH 19 - 12 PM/3:45 PM  
STUDENTS RECEIVE FREE ADMISSION WITH VALID CSUB ID



# RUNNER ON THE STREET

By Roseanne Ayala / Photos by Karina Diaz

This week The Runner asked, “How do you feel about group projects?”

Major Ebal  
Computer Science  
Senior

“I like group projects. Sometimes group members are more experienced than I am.”

Fabiola Lopez  
Liberal Studies  
Junior

“I don’t like them because my schedule is really busy. It’s hard to coordinate.”

Richmond Chu  
Nursing  
Freshman

“I like that your peers give you their thoughts on the subject.”

Audrey Arrington  
Chemistry  
Senior

“I rather work on my own because I get things done faster.”

## CAMPUS

### Is Rowdy at a standstill?

**By Lindsay Costa**  
*Reporter*

Rowdy the Roadrunner has stopped dead in his tracks in front of the Science buildings on CSU Bakersfield campus. After the Runner ran the story about his hide and seek game on campus, Rowdy came to a stop for an unexpected reason. With questions of who is moving Rowdy still on our minds and with Rowdy stopping his movement, new air has breathed into the mystery of who is moving the figure. To this reporter’s relief, Rowdy has not stopped because of the story previously printed and he will move again.

The Rowdy figure in question is a large chariot made to look like Rowdy the Roadrunner, CSUB’s beloved school mascot. Aside from some wear and tear, many of the students on campus have started to love the figure ever since someone started moving him at the beginning of the year. Students have noticed Rowdy appearing in different places mysteriously overnight in a game reminiscent of “Where’s Waldo.”

However, recently Rowdy has stopped moving as much as he used to, appearing to only move a few feet every few weeks or so, which is uncharacteristic of his usual movements around campus. In order to find out why, the people who may know who is moving Rowdy had to be asked. The

Art Department and student government were the first suspects, but sadly both were dead ends. Sarah Vanderlip, Art Department Chair, said that she was not involved with the project, but is “interested in making a new one or repairing it.”

Several students within the ASI office also said that they had no involvement with moving Rowdy and they were curious about who is moving him as well.

That led finally to the Spirit Program on campus. Seeing as the mascot is a big part of school spirit and any sort of interesting thing happening around campus involving the mascot can raise some school spirit, it was not too far of a stretch to say that the Spirit Program may be involved.

Arthur Smith, however, says that this is not quite true.

“Yes and no. I’ll be honest and say that there are times where I know where it’s going to be and then there are other times where it is random,” said Smith.

Smith said that the movement of the Rowdy figure is meant to be playful and help students notice the figure because before not many students did. The figure moving around campus is meant as a game for students to see where he is and where he will be. Although he does know who the individuals are who move Rowdy around campus, he has said that they will not be disclosing that information.

## COMIC

Oh Great Academic Owl, we ask of you to save us from failure. We burn our old Scantrons and blue books as sacrifice to please our hunger. Bestow upon us great knowledge for our exams. Thank you Academic Owl.

### RUNNINGRUNNERSRUN

by: Jose Bravo

### What’s Going on Around Campus

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

<b>WED., MARCH 9</b>  HOT COCOA, MUFFINS, & DONUT SALE 8-10 AM @ DDH EAST	<b>THURS., MARCH 10</b>  BPA GROWING OPPORTUNITIES CAREER FAIR 12-5 PM @ SU MPR 125  SOCIAL MEDIA & THE JOB SEARCH CECE WORKSHOP 12-1 PM @ DDH 146H	<b>FRI., MARCH 11</b>  BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. CAL POLY 3 PM @ SRC BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMPLEX  BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. SAN JOSE STATE 5 PM @ SRC BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMPLEX  BASEBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE 6 PM @ HARDT FIELD
<b>SAT., MARCH 12</b>  CSUB THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES PRESENTS ALADDIN 11 AM - 12:30 PM & 2-4 PM @ DORÉ ARENA \$5 GEN ADMISSION  BASEBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE 6 PM @ HARDT FIELD	<b>SUN., MARCH 13</b>  CSUB THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES PRESENTS ALADDIN 11 AM - 12:30 PM @ DORÉ ARENA \$5 GEN ADMISSION  BASEBALL VS. UC RIVERSIDE 1 PM @ HARDT FIELD	<b>MON., MARCH 14</b>  STUDY STRONG FREE LUNCH FOR FINALS 12-2 PM @ SU PATIO  ZEN ZONE COLORING, STUDY TIPS, AROMATHERAPY, YOGA EXERCISES, AND MORE! 2-5:30 PM @ SRC SOLARIO DE FORTALEZA
<b>WED., MARCH 16</b>  STUDY STRONG DE-STRESS ACTIVITIES 12-2 PM @ SU RUNNER PARK & SU PATIO  STUDY STRONG FREE MESSAGES 1-3 PM @ SU BLUE ROOM 137	<b>THURS., MARCH 17</b>  METH TASK FORCE MENTORING CONFERENCE 6-7:30 PM @ DORÉ THEATRE  BASEBALL VS. OKLAHOMA 6 PM @ HARDT FIELD	<b>SAT., MARCH 19</b>  CPR/AED CLASS 11 AM - 5 PM @ SRC SOLARIO DE FORTALEZA  BEACH VOLLEYBALL VS. GRAND CANYON & CSUN 11 AM & 3 PM @ SRC BEACH VOLLEYBALL COMPLEX  BASEBALL VS. OKLAHOMA 12 PM & 3:45 PM @ HARDT FIELD

### STAFF EDITORIAL

## Farewell, super semester

As the winter quarter at CSU Bakersfield draws to a close, and as the school continues to prepare for its transition into the semester system, current students bid farewell to one of the school’s worst pastimes: a phenomenon known as the super semester.

Almost 22 solid weeks of classes created by the mashing together of the winter and spring quarters, with only one merciful week in the middle for spring break. The super semester can tend to feel like a belligerent affront to students after the tender, loving embrace of an almost month-long winter vacation.

Many college students can barely be expected to brush

their teeth every day, let alone attend classes for 22 straight weeks.

As a result, any attendance during the entire spring quarter tends to feel like accepting some administrative dare — a noble rise to the challenge of spending hours in a classroom when there are still so many adventures to take, Frisbees to throw, and sunburns to receive. One week off simply cannot fill those youthful voids.

Thankfully, the impending semester system promises to usher in a new era of much more forgiving academic schedules. With only two 16-week semesters per academic year, the ratio of class time to eating-an-entire-pint-of-ice-

cream-in-one-sitting-while-watching-Netflix time will feel much more balanced.

This upcoming fall semester will last from Aug. 22 to Dec. 6, and the spring semester from Jan. 23 to May 10, leaving a precious gift of time in between.

The semester system is likely to be a much more relaxed arrangement all around, with shorter class periods and six more weeks per term to understand the material.

Therefore, students of CSUB, congratulations on making it through another quarter, and halfway through your last super semester. Finish strong, and enjoy your spring break — you’ll need it.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Giving students answers

You make me proud to be a CSUB teacher! If the university classroom is not where difficult matters and challenging questions are explored, then where? My most important objective

is to assure my students are prepared for the complexity of the world.

Your editorial met my objective, thank you! I can personally assure my

students that this strike will not interfere with any required hours they may need.

Honored to be CSUB faculty, Dr. Denise Dawkins



RUNNING

# Campus Police to make run

**Julie M. Perez**  
*Assistant Multimedia Editor*

This year CSU Bakersfield’s own campus police officers Scott Jelletich and Freddie Reyes will be competing in the 2016 Baker 2 Vegas race on March 19 through 21.

The race will begin in Baker, Calif., and end at the West Gate Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

Baker 2 Vegas is an annual event first established by Chuck Foot, a former Los Angeles Police Officer, 32 years ago. Baker 2 Vegas is a race that promotes physical fitness with law enforcement.

The run comprises 270 law enforcement teams from all

over the world, such as officers from Germany, Canada, and Australia.

Officer Jelletich and Officer Reyes will be a part of the CSU team, which consists of 20 runners from all 23 CSU campuses.

Every year there is roughly 6,000 participants. Last year, the CSU team placed 69th out of the 260 teams with a time of 16 hours and 27 minutes.

The race begins at 2 p.m. in Baker, Calif. on a Saturday and ends at 6 a.m. on Sunday in Las Vegas, Nev.

“I’ve been training intensely... four to five times a week. “I feel confident. I feel ready,” said Officer Jelletich.

He also shared his past



Courtesy of University Police

**CSUB university police officers Scott Jelletich and Freddie Reyes will compete in the 2016 Baker 2 Vegas Race.**

experience about the race and said, “Baker, California has been known to be 100 degrees but then you get up 6,000 foot

elevation in that mountain, they’re dealing with very cool weather. There are a lot of different climates guys could be

running in.”

This is the first of several years that a CSUB runner has participated.

Both Officer Jelletich and Officer Reyes are interested in representing CSUB and the CSU police officers in the race.

MEN’S BASKETBALL



Alejandra Flores/The Runner

**CSUB senior forward Kevin Mays drives in and dunks the ball.**

# CSUB rolls over Seattle

**By Juan Garcia**  
*Reporter*

It was senior night for the CSU Bakersfield men’s basketball team as it ended its regular season on a high note as they rolled past Seattle University 93-71 on Saturday at the Icardo Center.

“(Seattle) played with a lot of purpose tonight,” said head coach Rod Barnes. “They were a team that didn’t take for granted that we are already a number two seed. We knew our seed coming into the game.”

The Roadrunners are set in the second seed and there is a chance that they may face the Redhawks again in the semi-finals of the Western Athletic Conference tournament on Mar. 9-12.

CSUB forced a season high 24 turnovers and a program

all-time record high 16 steals. It was senior night and the last home game for senior center Aly Ahmed and senior forward Kevin Mays. They were recognized and honored before the start of the game.

“It’s hard to put it in words man, this is home,” said Mays. “It’s going to be tough leaving this place.”

Mays is the 3rd top rebounder in the conference and has scored 500 points in his two seasons at CSUB and is set to reach 500 career rebounds as he is currently at 490.

“I’m happy and sad at the same time,” said Ahmed. “It was a good experience and I loved it here.”

Ahmed is sixth all-time in rebounding for CSUB with 565 career rebounds and is CSUB’s active leading scorer with 1032 points, the twelfth runner

all-time to go over 1000 points in a career. He is also the sixth runner to achieve 1000 points and 500 rebounds.

Ahmed is set to become fifth in all-time rebounds and fifth in blocks with 76 blocks in his career. Top shooters in this game were junior guard Dedrick Basile with 17 points and redshirt-freshman guard Damiyne Durham with 16 points. Durham achieved this from only playing 11 minutes in the second half of the game as Barnes said Durham was suspended for the first half of the game for academic reasons.

Ahmed and Mays didn’t have very much game time as this game didn’t determine much for CSUB in terms of their standings for the WAC tournament. Barnes decided to play this game safe to ensure that there aren’t any injuries going

in to post-season.

CSUB finishes off the season with a 14-1 home record and a 12 game home winning streak, a near perfect home record but was broken by New Mexico State on Jan. 23.







New Mexico also broke CSUB’s six-game winning streak, the longest since the 2005-2006 season. CSUB (21-8, 11-3 WAC) will open the WAC tournament Thursday against Chicago State (4-17, 0-14 WAC) in Las Vegas.



93



71

'Runner Roundup			
Softball			
	UCSB		8
	CSUB		4
Baseball			
	Northwestern State		10
	CSUB		7
Sand Volleyball			
	CSUB		3
	Concordia Irvine		2

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WAC TOURNAMENT

March madness begins in Vegas

Men's hoops quests for title

By Joe Macias  
Sports Editor

After its best regular season since moving to Division I, the CSU Bakersfield men's basketball team looks to win its first Western Athletic Conference Championship at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev.

"I think our guys think we have the best team," said CSUB head coach Rod Barnes. "It's March. It's all about surviving. It's going to come so fast. We got to be us. Just be who we are. We don't have to go over and be anything special. We don't have to go over and be this magnificent unbelievable team."

Senior forward Kevin Mays and senior center Aly Ahmed look to make the most of this last chance they have at making history for the CSUB basketball program.

"I understand we had a great season. We did a lot of great things, but (winning the WAC

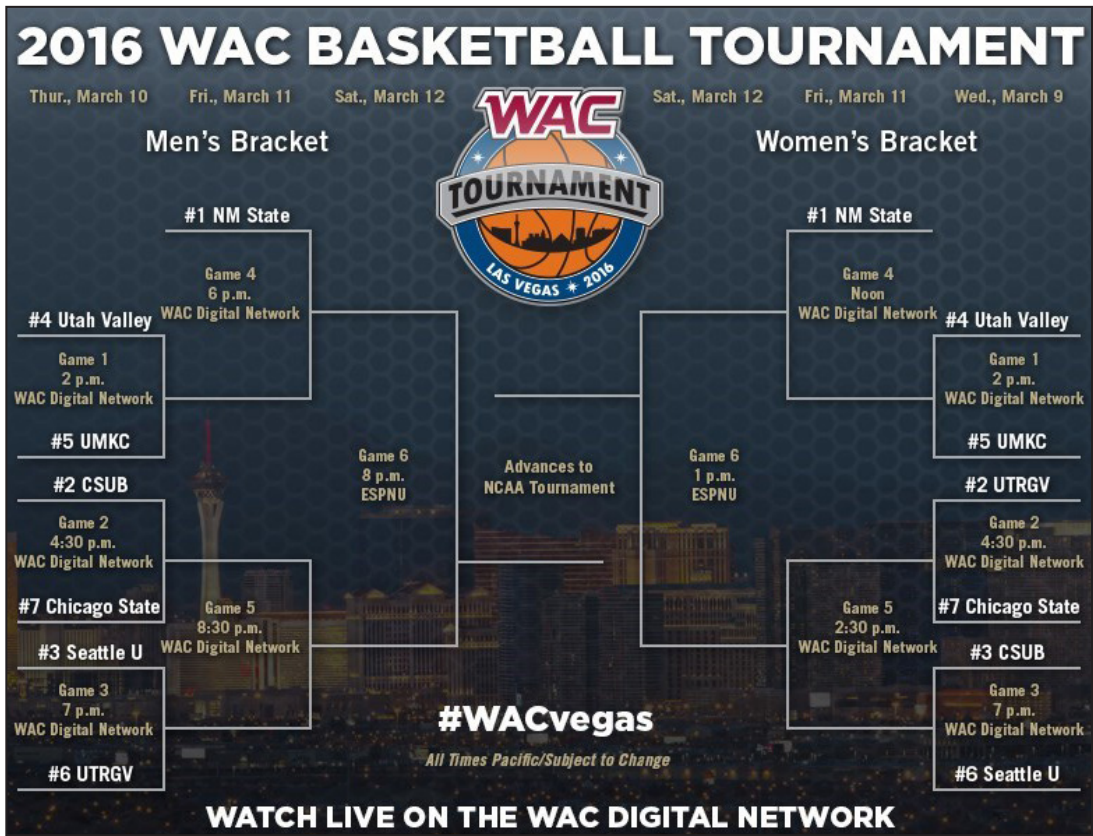


Photo by WAC Sports

championship) is going to be the icing on the cake," said Mays. "I'm just looking forward to the guys to be (themselves)."

"I don't want to see nobody being the superman trying to be a superhero cause that's not what we do. That's not what we're about. We're a team-oriented group."

Mays is averaging 12.8 points and 8.3 rebounds per game, which is third best in the conference.

Ahmed is another impact player for the Roadrunners as he leads the team in points with

13.5 per game.

"I'm happy so far with what we did this year. What we did is much better than last year," said Ahmed. "I want the best effort. I think we're going to win (the WAC championship) because the way we play. I'm sure we're going to win."

CSUB is second in conference in allowed points as their opponents are averaging just 64.3 points per game. On the offensive side, CSUB is third best in the WAC in team scoring with 73.4 points per game.

Second-seeded CSUB will be facing seventh-seeded Chicago

State University in its first game of the WAC tournament on Thursday March 10.

The Roadrunners defeated the Cougars in both of its regular season matchups.

In its matchup on Jan. 11 at Chicago State, the Roadrunners won 67-56 and on Feb. 6, CSUB beat CSU 71-48 in the Icardo Center.

The Roadrunners have had a season to remember but winning a WAC Championship and getting into the NCAA tournament would make an argument for the best year the men's basketball program has had.

Women's team hopes for deep run

By Joe Macias  
Sports Editor

Things are looking good for the CSU Bakersfield women's basketball team as it begins the Western Athletic Conference Tournament against Seattle University on March 9 at the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas, Nev.

"This is the right time to be peaking. As long as we stay at that level," said CSUB head coach Greg McCall. "You want to keep that momentum going. We want to keep that fire lit and that's something that we've been doing and been playing very well and been playing lights out basketball."

McCall is looking at one of the leaders of the team senior forward Batabe Zempare to step up.

"There's like a special feeling in the air to me," said Zempare. "Everyone from top to bottom is focused and ready to win this thing and I think we have a really good shot at winning it. I think every team is beatable and I think we have every spot filled. I think we have an advantage. We have an inside presence. We have an outside presence. On any given night anyone can go off."

Zempare is averaging a team high 12 and 9.7 rebounds per game.

Another leader that CSUB is looking to step up is senior guard Alyssa Shannon.

Shannon is also looking to make the most out of her last year playing college basketball.

"This is our last go around, so it's now or never," said Shannon. "I'm just looking forward to seeing people ready and coming to play. Even people coming off the bench just really coming in and supporting the team and making sure that the level of play stays the same if not picks up. Everyone's peaking at the right time so I'm really excited to see just everything come together and just bring home a WAC championship."

Shannon is averaging 10.1 points and leading the team in assists per game with 4.6.

As a team, CSUB is averaging a conference leading 33.3 percent from behind the three-point line and sits in third place for overall points scored in a game with 62.9.

This will be the second week in a row that CSUB (11-18, 8-6 WAC) will be playing Seattle (9-20, 3-11 WAC) after beating them on March 5, 66-52.

WRESTLING



Alejandra Flores/The Runner

CSUB senior Ian Nickell is one of four wrestlers for the Roadrunners who will be wrestling in the NCAA Championships.

'Runners travel to NYC

By Joe Macias  
Sports Editor

In its most important part of the season, the CSU Bakersfield wrestling team looks to get ready for the NCAA Division I Championships on March 17-19 in Madison Square Garden.

"They've gotten to this point because of their training and where they're at and the level they've achieved," said CSUB head coach Mike Mendoza. "During the season you can kind of get away with grinding through part of the season, but when you go to the post-season you want the guys to be feeling their best and wrestling their best. For us it's a matter of just getting good workouts in and keeping them healthy."

Three wrestlers from the CSUB wrestling program qualified for the D-I Championships for their weight class.

Redshirt-senior Ian Nickell (19-3, 5-0 PAC 12) is wrestling in the 149-pound division, red-shirt-senior Adam Fierro (17-9,

4-1 PAC 12) is wrestling in the 165-pound division, and red-shirt-senior Bryce Hammond (19-3, 5-0 PAC 12), is wrestling in the 174-pound idvision.

CSUB will travel to New York to compete in the NCAA Tournament.

"I feel good," said Hammond. "This is my favorite time of year. I love the post-season. I think the coaching staff does a great job of getting us prepared. They understand how all of us click and they know everybody's got to prepare differently."

Last season, Hammond missed the postseason due to a shoulder injury but looks to come back and make a statement.

"I think the biggest thing is the playing field is leveled," said Hammond. "Every year there's someone ranked one or two or three that gets beat in the first round. No one respects that seed or that (ranking) anymore in the national tournament. Everyone's got nothing to lose."

Hammond also said that he is not one that feels pressure during this time of the season.

In the 2013-2014 season, Hammond finished eighth in the NCAA Championships, becoming the first CSUB wrestler to earn All-American honors since 2010.

Hammond went to Bakersfield High School, so a big win like this would definitely bring some hometown attention to the Bakersfield wrestler.

"Five years of preparation has led up to this," said Nickell. "I'm ready to go out there and leave my mark for CSUB. I just have faith in my training. I just hope I can glorify God some way by taking first or doing well (and) wrestling hard."

Nickell (26-11, 4-1 PAC 12) will be competing with a sprained MCL but said that he has been wrestling with it for most of the season and hasn't held him back.

This will be Nickell's second straight appearance at the NCAA Championships after winning only one of his three

matches in the 2015 tournament.

At the time of this publication, redshirt-sophomore Coleman Hammond (21-13 3-2 PAC 12), who wrestles in the 149-pound division and senior Reuben Franklin, who wrestles in the 194-pound division, are both on the bubble and hoping to qualify as well.

"There's five at large spots and for (Franklin) not to go you'd have to have five of the top seven guys in the country just bite the dust this weekend, which is not going to happen," said Mendoza.

Franklin (30-6, 5-0 PAC 12) has been the staple for CSUB and has been called a machine by Mendoza.

As a team the Roadrunners went 11-4 in their overall meet duals and 4-1 in their PAC 12 duals.

CSUB is coming off a dissapointing finish in the PAC-12 Championships finishing third in the tournament behind Arizona State and Oregon State.

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