CSUF Alumni Association

**Rick Vanderhook Set to Retire**

After spending 10 years at the helm of the Cal State Fullerton program, Titan Baseball head coach Rick Vanderhook has decided to retire, effective December 30, 2021. Until his effective retirement date, he will be serving in a role as special assistant to the athletic director.

[Read More]

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**Titan Men Win Third Big West Title, Women Finished Second**

Charles Kelly and the men’s 4×400-meter relay team rallied to win on Saturday, May 15 securing the team’s third Big West Outdoor Track and Field Championships in four seasons.

[Read more]

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**Business Alumna Brings High Tech Solutions to Seattle Mariners**

Kari Escobedo ’95 (B.A. business admin), who played Division 1 softball for two seasons at CSUF, oversees business operations tech, business intelligence & data,
ballpark & baseball tech, & fan experience for the Seattle Mariners as Senior VP of Information Technology.

Touchdown on the red planet

Mechanical engineering alumna, Lauren Ducharme ’15 describes the ‘seven minutes of terror before the historic Mars 2020 landing. The CSUF alumna, a systems flight engineer for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, is part of the team of engineers, software developers, & scientists working on the historic Mars 2020 Perseverance rover mission.

Accounting Alumna Among Nation’s Top Performers on CPA Exam

Jocelyn Lee ’19 not only passed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Exam but she scored above 95.50 on all four test sections on her first try! Because of her performance, Lee has been recognized with the Elijah Watt Sells Award from the American Institute of CPAs — one of 89 individuals among the 75,000 who took the 2020 exam, and the first from CSUF to receive the award.
Ted Vu ’02 (B.A. Business Administration) and Scott Nguyen ’04 (B.F.A. Art) instantly saw an opportunity in the boba business while students at CSUF in 2000. Twenty years later, their Tastea franchise has expanded to 23 locations.

Become an Alumni Association Lifetime Member!

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Not a lifetime member? Become a lifetime member of your Alumni Association and be entered into this Dell work-from-home giveaway! Become a member by June 30, 2021, to be entered. To learn more and view terms and conditions click below.

Titans in the Spotlight

Alumni Association 2021 Outstanding Senior Award

Sergio Torres, a first-generation and adult re-entry student overcame many challenges during his pursuit of a bachelor’s degree — including his past incarceration — to excel in college, give back to his campus and community, and garner the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Senior Award along with a $1,000 stipend.
Alumni Association 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student

Finishing his doctorate in education amid the COVID-19 pandemic proved a herculean effort for Cal State Fullerton student Brandon D. Harris, who feared unemployment as a part-time community college instructor. For his scholarly and community service achievements, Harris was named the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Graduate Student with a $1,000 award.

Student Researchers Earn Top Honors at Statewide Competition

Eleven CSUF students competed in the 35th CSU Student Research Competition, with four scholars winning first & second-place awards. “The CSU Student Research Competition is an opportunity for some of the brightest students to present their research & creative activities in a competitive environment,” said Dr. Terri Patchen, who mentored the finalists & helped them develop their eight-minute presentations. Then the students participated in a live Zoom Q&A session with a panel of judges & an audience.

CSUF Award Winners
Sierra Farquhar-Wulff, graduate student, music
First place: Creative Arts and Design category
Project title: “Gender Discrimination in the Choral Conducting Profession”

Alexa Vega Rivas, undergraduate, psychology
First place: Behavioral, Social Sciences and Public Administration category
Project Title: “How Do the Effects of Trump’s Immigration Policies Influence White and Latino Support for the American Dream?”

Kathryn Eckholdt, undergraduate, biological science-ecology and evolutionary biology
Second place: Biological and Agricultural Sciences category
Project title: “Talking Trash: Will a Trash Interceptor in Newport...”
Makar Makarian, undergraduate, chemistry
Second place: Biological and Agricultural Sciences category
Project title: “Microwave-Assisted Synthesis and Kinetic Studies of Donepezil-Based Acetylcholinesterase Inhibitors for the Treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease”

Disability Awareness Club Wins Student Organization of the Year
Jay Hiji & Tricia Kuresa-Boone, now graduating seniors, found community in a student organization called Abled Advocators. Open to all students with or without disabilities, the club aims to break down stereotypes & bring awareness about disabilities, provide a safe space, & advocate for resources. For its commitment to inclusivity & active participation even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Abled Advocators was named Student Organization of the Year at Student Life & Leadership's 2021 Tuffy Awards.

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Activities and Events
June
CSU New York/Tri-State Alumni Event
CSUF alumni in the tri-state area (New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut) join fellow California State University alumni to welcome Chancellor Castro and reconnect with your CSU-NYC Alumni Network. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Space is limited so please RSVP by June 1, 2021.

Learn more

### June 11

**CSUF Virtual Ceremony**

The entire Titan family is invited to tune in on June 11th and watch the CSUF virtual ceremony for the Class of 2021!

Learn more

### June 12-15

**CSUF Limited In-Person Ceremony**

Class of 2021 graduates are invited to participate in the time-honored tradition of hearing their name announced as they walk triumphantly across the CSUF commencement stage starting June 12. Each graduate may invite two ticketed guests to attend the Commencement celebration.

Learn more

### June 17

**CSU Washington D.C. Alumni Event**

CSUF alumni in the DC area (DC, Maryland, and Virginia) join fellow California State University alumni to welcome Chancellor Castro and reconnect with your CSU-DC Alumni Network. The event is free, but pre-registration is required. Space is limited so please RSVP by June 10, 2021.

Learn more