

TITAN REPORT



Internship in Washington Is 'A Dream Come True'

Cal State Fullerton's 2022 Panetta Congressional intern, Sama Nafea, immigrated to the United States from Iraq when she was 6 years old. Despite her age, Nafea said she understood the sacrifice her parents were making as they quit their jobs and said goodbye to their families.

Through the Panetta Institute for Public Policy's Congressional Internship Program, the political science major had the opportunity to intern in Washington, D.C., with U.S. Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-Calif.) who oversees the 47th Congressional District.

After her internship concluded in November, the congressman's team hired Nafea as a staff assistant. She currently works in Lowenthal's district offices in Long Beach and Garden Grove, where she helps educate constituents and manage Capitol-based projects. As she continues her work with the House of Representatives, the 2023 graduate also is applying to law school.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-PANETTASCHOLAR](https://bit.ly/csuf-panettascholar)



Student Explores New Drug Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease

Cal State Fullerton biochemistry major Ryan West is working on a medicinal chemistry project to develop therapeutics that can be used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurologic disorder.

Specifically, West has developed environmentally friendly chemical reactions for synthesis of small molecules that can influence multiple biological pathways at once for the treatment of the disease.

"The prospect of creating drugs that are more accessible to populations disproportionately affected by disease is very important to me," said West, who plans to graduate next year and pursue a career as an academic researcher in drug design and development.

Alzheimer's disease, which kills more people than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined, is increasingly becoming a health crisis, said Stevan Pecic, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry and West's mentor. Moreover, Alzheimer's and dementia deaths increased by 16% during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Managing Alzheimer's disease represents a unique challenge to health professionals. To date, there are only four drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with donepezil being the most commonly used, Pecic explained.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-TREATMENT-FOR-ALZHEIMERS](https://bit.ly/csuf-treatment-for-alzheimers)

Annual Report: Titan Achievements in 2021-22

Cal State Fullerton's 2021-22 Annual Report is now available. The report features campus achievements and examples of students empowered by their Titan experiences. Read the report at: [BIT.LY/CSUF-ANNUAL-REPORT-21-22](https://bit.ly/csuf-annual-report-21-22)





Water Polo Coach Dives Into Hopes for Inaugural Season

Cal State Fullerton women’s water polo will make a splash in the spring as the first-ever team to compete on campus, and the men’s team will follow suit in the fall with its first season on campus in 37 years.

At the helm of this new athletic program is head coach Kyle Witt, who said CSUF is in the perfect position to train professional water polo players with its new Aquatics Center. “The program is new to Cal State Fullerton, but people care so much and want this program to succeed.”

The women’s home opener is scheduled for Feb. 4 against Chapman University.

[BIT.LY/CSUF-WATERPOLO](https://bit.ly/csuf-waterpolo)



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TITAN noun | tī-tən
one who stands out for greatness of achievement

Your Gift Is Changing Lives

“Two years’ worth of weeds sprouted and dominated the Fullerton Arboretum’s California native meadow during the pandemic. I spent 120 hours over the summer of 2022 clearing weeds and creating social media posts to educate the public about the native and invasive plants,” shared Alexandra Lewandowski, a Cal State Fullerton graduate student in environmental studies.

Fran and Sandy Colwell pledged \$25,000 to the university’s 26-acre botanical garden to support its Engaging Environmental Experiences (E3) program. The E3 program provides students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and engage with real-world environmental projects.

Read more impact stories from the “It Takes a Titan” campaign at:
campaign.fullerton.edu.

