



PHOTO BY LOU PONSI, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Art education major Jasmine Solei organized an exhibit of artwork created by women who are incarcerated in the California Institution for Women and their children. The exhibition, "Caged Voices: Artistic Reflections on Mass Incarceration," is currently displayed on the fourth floor of the Pollak Library. Solei brought art workshops, "Creative Healing for Forgotten Families," into the prison where the inmates and their children could create artwork together.

PRISON PROGRAM

BONDING BEHIND BARS: USING ART TO PROMOTE FAMILY HEALING

Student creates classes for mothers, children

By Lou Ponsi,
contributing writer

As a student in the Art & Social Justice class at Cal State Fullerton, Jasmine Solei had the opportunity to visit the California Institute for Women in Chino, where she and other students led art workshops for incarcerated women.

Taught by Mary Anna Pomonis, assistant professor in the Department of Visual Arts, the Art & Social Justice course tasks students with creating lesson plans centered around social justice and then teaching those courses

in alternative venues to groups outside the university.

Solei was leaving the prison after the first workshop during the Spring 2023 semester and was struck by the sight of a children's playground boxed in behind barbed-wired fences situated adjacent to the visitation area.

As a mother herself, Solei thought about her own son, Kayden, who was 2 years old at the time.

"I just thought to myself that I can't even imagine what it would be like to have to go through that, not only as the parent but as the child to have to visit your parent behind bars," Solei said. "And it dawned upon me that there are

parents in here that are separated from their kids."

This manner of interaction between parents and their children ignited a spark of inspiration in Solei, who went on to create a more expansive art program using art as a medium for incarcerated women to bond with their children and family members.

Solei recently completed a series of monthly art workshops inside the women's prison in Chino in which the inmates and their children got to create artwork together.

She titled the program: "Creative Healing for Forgotten Families."

"Every time, we've had a great turnout

at the prison," Solei said. "There's always been lots of kids and families, so I've been able to bring arts and crafts to them."

When the workshop was completed, Solei curated an exhibition featuring the artwork titled "Caged Voices: Artistic Reflections on Mass Incarceration."

The exhibition is currently on display on the fourth floor of the Pollak Library.

"The work itself is some of the most rewarding stuff I've ever done in my life," Solei said. "I absolutely love it, and I would love to continue on with this work for as long as I can."

Before moving forward with her project, Solei received a \$15,000

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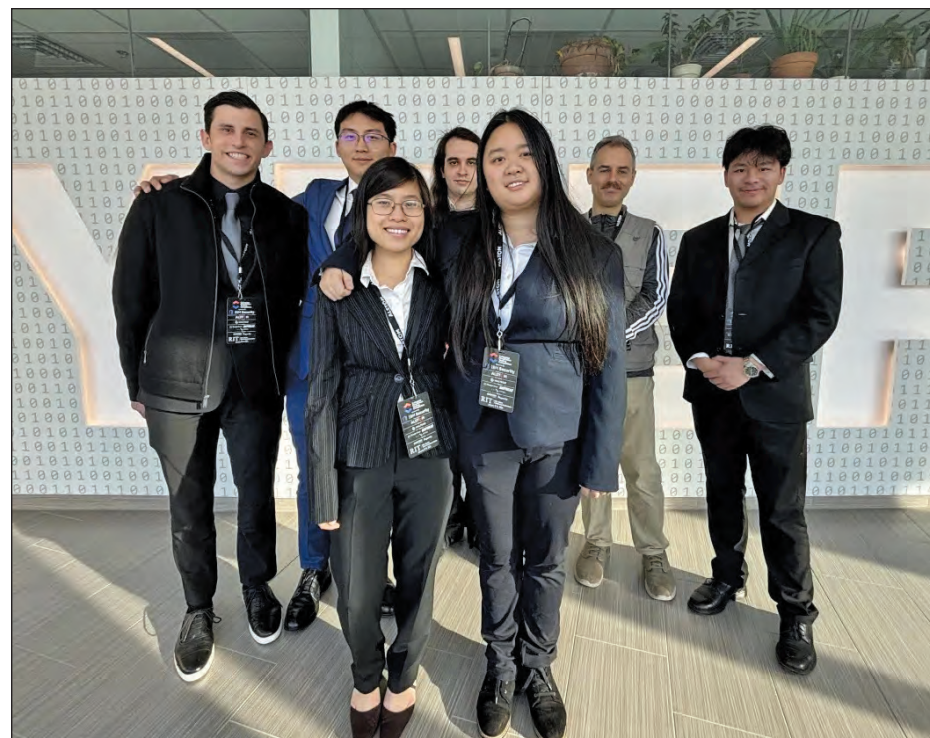


PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

The team at the 2023–24 Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition in Rochester, New York: In front, Katherine Chen, left, and Katie Tran.

TECHNOLOGY

Cybersecurity students compete to hack into vulnerable systems

Experience prepares them for jobs

By Nicole Gregory,
contributing writer

Last fall, Cal State Fullerton cybersecurity students competed in the Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition where teams of students from the region met to determine how to hack the security systems of an airport and then presented a report of their findings to executives.

The Cal State Fullerton team of six students placed second in the high-pressure competition, which provided real-world experience that they will bring to the jobs that await them once they graduate. Business sponsors often recruit winners for employment during these events, said Mikhail Gofman, professor of computer science and director of the ECS Center

for Cybersecurity in the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Penetration testing means trying to break through the security systems of a business by using the same tools and techniques that hackers use. If a penetration tester can discover and exploit a vulnerability, Gofman said, then so can an attacker.

"This is often called the security governance," Gofman said, "the goal of which is to ensure the cybersecurity of the company. It is driven by risk management, and, of course, cyberattacks are a big part of the company risk management, because a cyberattack can have very devastating consequences."

The regional competition focused on the security systems of an airport. "They weren't actually real airport systems, but real networks which simulated what a network infrastructure of an airport would look like," Gofman said. "The students had 12 hours, from morning to night, to conduct the penetration test to find and exploit as many security vulnerabilities as possible."

Then they had to write a professional penetration testing report that

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TITAN OF EMPOWERMENT

Combining her interests in true crime and photography, **Cassandra Caldwell** created six photographic installations on campus to encourage viewers to think like detectives.

Empowered by **Cal State Fullerton's Darryl Curran Creative Photography Scholarship**, Caldwell brought her senior thesis project to life through photographs, 3D sculptures and found materials.

Now an alumna of the art program, Caldwell is pursuing creative opportunities and aspires to teach photography at the university level.



ACADEMIC GRANT

Studying how Black youths in foster care overcome educational challenges

Strong inner drive helps students excel

By Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

Research shows that in many counties of Southern California, Black foster youth have more detrimental educational outcomes than foster youth of other races, said Brianna Harvey, assistant professor of sociology at Cal State Fullerton.

Harvey recently received a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, via UC Berkeley, of more than \$34,000 to dig into this disparity. Collecting data for her project will begin in April, and she'll have the help of two undergraduate student researchers who are part of a mentoring program on campus called "Bolstering Black Undergraduate Student Creative Activities and Research."

Professor Harvey is very familiar with this subject. Before becoming a university professor, she worked as a social worker for more than 12 years with a focus on foster youth and families. She went on to achieve a master's degree in social work from USC and a doctorate in education from UCLA, focusing on the educational experiences of young Black foster youths.

"It was during my time as a practitioner that I saw that there were a lot of challenges that many of my youth were facing in education," Harvey said. "A lot of them were being suspended, or expelled, or held back a grade."

She explained that most research on this population compares foster youth to nonfoster youth. "We know that foster youth have very poor outcomes in educational contexts because of trauma and because of moving to multiple homes," she said. "Research rarely looks at the racialized experiences between foster youth. When I started to dig a little deeper in data, I saw that even among foster youth, Black youth are significantly lagging."

This is true in Orange County. "Only about 2% of students may experience a suspension, but 15% of Black foster



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Brianna Harvey is an assistant professor of sociology at Cal State Fullerton.

youth are likely to be suspended in Orange County," Harvey said. "There are significant increases in the numbers as far as the areas that matter the most, which are suspension, expulsion, graduation rates, special education placement."

Trauma early in life can be one reason Black foster youth sometimes act out in school, becoming "that extra factor that's causing them to be further marginalized,"

Harvey said. "You may have a youth who is having a bad experience within a home, it's triggering to them. They act out in class, and instead of receiving care or support for it, it's like, 'You're getting kicked out of class. You're a behavioral problem,' and the stigma continues."

Encounters with the probation system or even jail also have a negative impact on school behavior of Black foster youth. "Every interaction that they have with

the system seems to make them more vulnerable and more likely to experience detrimental outcomes in school," Harvey said. Racism and bias can also be a factor. "Unfortunately, a lot of school personnel hold bias against Black youth, and they see them as criminal," she said.

Harvey's goal in her new research project, titled "Challenging Anti-Blackness in Education: Amplifying the Voices of Black Foster Youth Students Through Counter-Storytelling," is to include interviews with Black foster youth who overcame obstacles and succeeded in the education system.

"The youth that I'm going to specifically be talking to are all in college," she said. "They will all have either graduated from college or be currently in college. They were able to find a way to overcome the challenges that we often see in these quantitative numbers. It's really them telling a counter-story to the data that is around them."

In her previous research, Harvey discovered that Black foster youth who did well in school had a strong inner drive to make the most of their education.

"For a lot of them it was this desire to be able to succeed," she said. "They said that school was a way out. They saw school as an opportunity for them to make a better life for themselves and for their family. It gave them this ability to have almost this self-directed motivation. It's a different level of importance on education than I think for any other community."

She plans to interview and organize focus groups with Black teenagers and young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 who were in foster care and ask them to reflect on their experiences from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Harvey looks forward to hearing their stories and is excited by the potential of the project to find educational strategies to help Black foster youth succeed.

"It's uplifting the voices of a marginalized group and allowing them to provide their story, or narrative of their experience," she said. "What I hope to get from talking with these youths is to better understand what they experienced, but also, how they overcame it."

Art

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scholarship from the Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation.

Established as a memorial to the late Don Strauss of Newport Beach, the foundation annually awards the scholarships to 15 California college sophomores and juniors for projects involving service to the community.

Solei was the first Cal State Fullerton student to be recognized as a Strauss Scholar.

After reading her student's proposal, Pomonis encouraged Solei to apply for the scholarship.

"This is the first proposal I read that was a meaningful attempt for a student to explore what they could do for a mom who was in a situation where they weren't able to spend time with their kids, except in this really strange environment," Pomonis said. "So, by making the visiting room the site of creativity, it makes everybody relax more and the visit better."

Solei was also motivated to launch her workshops after becoming aware of some telling statistics related to children of incarcerated parents.

Research conducted by the nonprofit Prison Policy Initiative showed that nearly half of the approximately 1.25 million people in state prisons are parents of minor children, with about one in five of those children age 4 or younger.

According to the National Institute of Justice, an agency within the U.S. Department of Justice, family members of incarcerated individuals are often thought of as "hidden victims" who "receive little personal support and do not benefit from the systemic societal mechanisms generally available to direct crime victims, despite their prevalence and their similarities to direct crime victims."

Pomonis and Solei also formed a campus group titled Just Arts, which enables them to partner with other campus and community groups in bringing art workshops into prisons.

Those include Project Rebound, a program assisting formerly incarcerated individuals wanting to attend college.

CSUF is among several Cal State universities with a Project Rebound chapter.

Solei, incidentally, also earned a grant from the city of Santa Ana, enabling her to teach art to underserved populations in the city.

She also works part time conducting healing arts classes as part of an outpatient mental health program.

Her ultimate goal is to earn a degree that would enable her to become an art therapist.

"I think sometimes we push people to take classes for credit, which is great, and you should do that, but you should know why you're wanting to take those classes for credit," Pomonis said. "A lot of it is getting to know yourself and your heart and how to express yourself more effectively. And the arts do that."

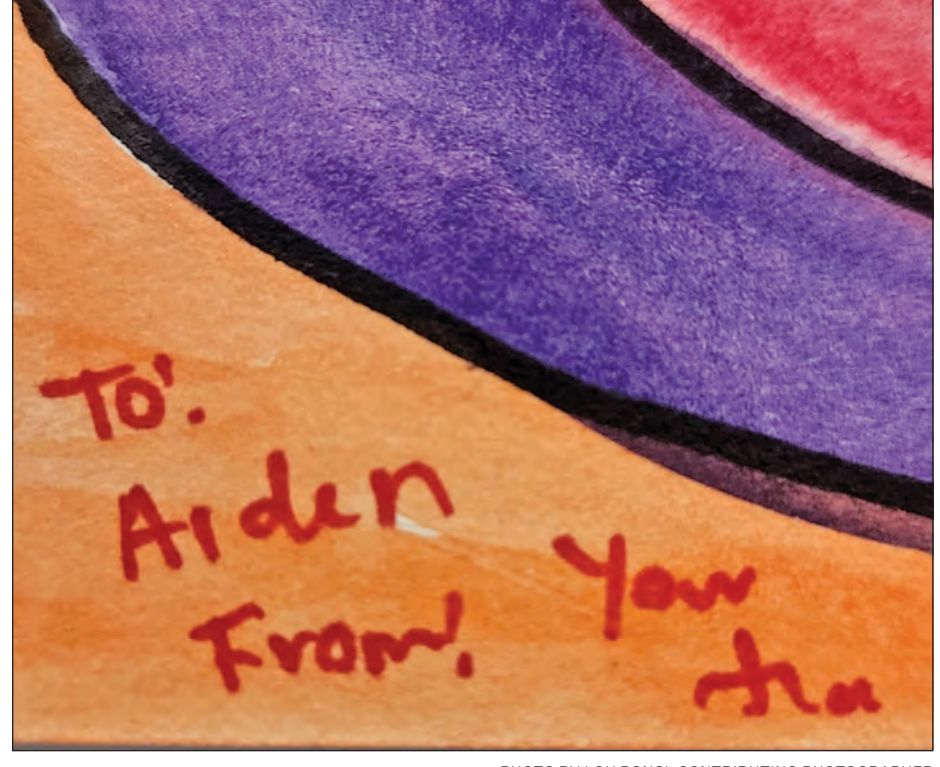


PHOTO BY LOU PONSI, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Artwork created by a woman incarcerated in the California Institution for Women, signed "To Aiden, From your Tia," is part of the "Caged Voices: Artistic Reflections on Mass Incarceration" exhibit in the Pollak Library.

1st in California bachelor's degrees earned at public universities

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Royce International Symposium explores foreign policy

CSUF News Media Services

After serving in the military for three years, Omid Farzan returned to higher education with a newfound interest in international affairs.

While pursuing his graduate degree in political science at Cal State Fullerton, Farzan turned that interest into academic research that examines China's impact on the Middle East. He worked alongside Alexei Shevchenko, professor of political science, who specializes in American foreign policy and Russian and Chinese foreign policy.

"What really motivated me to conduct research was my time in the army," said Farzan.

His study looks at how the Belt and Road Initiative — a China-led global infrastructure project that launched in 2013 — has impacted human development in seven countries, including Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar.

Farzan had the opportunity to present this research to an audience of faculty, alumni, students and research experts at the university's annual Royce International Symposium on March 8 at the Richard Nixon Library & Museum.

"My goal is to become a university professor and teach political science, so conducting and presenting this research is helping me toward that goal," said Farzan, who was recognized with a student research award at the symposium.

He was joined by fellow CSUF students and research award recipients, Melanie Castillo, who presented her research on "China's Institutional Stability and The Impact On Its Economy," and Oluwatosin Emmanuel Folowosele, who presented his research on "The Influence of Chinese Authoritarianism and American Democracy on African Economies and Governance Structures."

Former U.S. Rep. Ed Royce delivered the event's keynote address, sharing his expertise on "American Foreign Policy in a Destabilized World: China, Russia, Africa and Iran." The purpose of the Royce International Symposium is to advance research whilst engaging the campus and Orange County community in discussions about international policy and complex global issues.

Royce, a CSUF alumnus, provided insights into such important issues as the current affairs between Russia and the United States, the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, how foreign policy will impact the United States' 2024 presidential election



Omid Farzan, graduate student, left, with CSUF alumnus and former U.S. Rep. Ed Royce

PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

and the importance of supporting democratic governments around the world.

"From an academic perspective, it's important to think about the old adage going back to early history, the struggle between democratic societies like Athens and totalitarian ones like Sparta," said Royce, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration-accounting, finance in 1977.

The event also featured foreign policy

and political science experts from universities, the U.S. Marine Corps and Washington D.C.-based organizations, who shared their knowledge on the challenges surrounding China and Russia's engagement with Africa and their Triangular Alliance with Iran.

During his career, Royce represented California's 39th Congressional District from 1993 to 2019 and served Orange County for more than 25 years. He also served as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee from 2013-19. He

currently serves as a policy director at Brownstein, a lobbying and law firm.

The symposium was organized by CSUF's Department of Political Science. Sponsors and partners included: Brownstein, Richard Nixon Foundation, SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, Kyle House Group, CSUF's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, CSUF's College of Business and Economics, OC Forum, The Orange County Register, and the World Affairs Council-Orange County.



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

CSUF alumnus and former U.S. Rep. Ed Royce



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Former U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, left, with Melanie Castillo, graduate student researcher

Cybersecurity

FROM PAGE 1

communicated their findings in plain language.

"Our goal as a team was to try to fully compromise the company, given only a set of IP ranges and some scattered fictitious employee information they left on the internet for us to exploit," said fourth-year student Katherine Chen, who was a member of the winning team.

"You use public information on the internet to impersonate someone and use their information for malicious purposes, which we were successfully able to do," Chen said. "At the end of the competition, we had to submit a huge report on our findings, which our report detailed to almost about 90 pages. At the end of the day, you want to present your findings to C-level executives who don't

know anything about technology. The report is what makes you win in CPTC."

To replicate a real work situation, students were interrupted from time to time by pretend executives with a request.

"One example which students told me about was that they were approached by an individual claiming that he was going to have a meeting with the CO in five minutes, and he just wanted to get an update on how they were progressing," Gofman said. "They had to be able to give a nice, concise, executively digestible formulation of where they were."

The Cal State Fullerton team participated in a global competition in January but did not place in the top three spots. For the global competition, they had to complete the penetration test, write a report, and give a presentation to the room of mock executives.

"My students worked very hard on this," Gofman said, praising their energy

and enthusiasm, especially those in the Offensive Security Society Club. He also credited the dedicated faculty in the Center for Cybersecurity, who added hands-on experience to cybersecurity classes.

Gofman sees an important role for his students in the world of cybersecurity.

"Here at CSUF, a lot of our students are from underrepresented backgrounds and are first-generation students. I think it's great to help those students take advantage of this growing job market. We are helping the nation by providing the desperately needed cybersecurity professional expertise while helping people who need to benefit from this demand."

Many former students work in cybersecurity, and some of Gofman's current students have lined up jobs ahead of graduation.

Chen is currently interning as a vulnerability researcher at a company

based in Virginia. "I really love deeply understanding something, and that is exactly what cyber offers you," she said. "Cyber is a field of being patient and being very meticulous, looking really hard for just a small hole to wiggle yourself into and wreak havoc. I always loved computer science, and I think cyber is basically computer science on steroids."

Cybersecurity student Katie Tran, who also participated in the competitions, has landed a job this summer as a cybersecurity analyst at Deloitte, a cybersecurity company.

"My cybersecurity classes with Professor Gofman have prepared me for employment," she said. "Cybersecurity classes with him cover a huge amount of material in detail, and he ensured that we learned and got hands-on experience with the subjects. He also provided a lot of guidance and coaching for competition."

ECONOMICS

Business Honors students make connections in Argentina, Brazil

CSUF News Media Services

As part of a Cal State Fullerton course called “The International Economy,” Jaidan Woo and 30 other students from the Business Honors Program traveled to Argentina and Brazil this winter to learn about the countries’ financial and investment practices. The course covers such topics as international trade and investment, balance of payments, foreign exchange rates, multinational enterprise and international economic policy.

Lorenzo Bizzi, professor of management and director of the Business Honors Program, led the study abroad trip to prepare students for future careers in international economics.

“Students saw how the concepts and theories they learn in class apply to the real world. They met with executives, managers and government officials who explained how the issues we discuss in class influence the way they do business and the decisions they make. An experience like this stimulates their thinking and helps them grow,” said Bizzi, who received the university’s 2023 Carol Barnes Excellence in Teaching Award.

Woo said a memorable experience from the trip was visiting the Lacoste company in Argentina, a popular clothing and apparel company known for its signature alligator logo. Woo and his classmates met with the company’s digital marketplace and wholesale manager, gaining insight into the impact of high inflation on consumer and business habits.

Students learned how Argentines often pay for cars and houses in cash, and that store prices fluctuate frequently. The experience demonstrated to Woo, who is majoring in business administration with a concentration in risk management and insurance, the importance of businesses being flexible in response to economic changes.

Additionally, the business students met with U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Marc Stanley and an officer from the Argentine department of commerce, learning about government relations between the countries and discovered potential career paths in foreign service.

In Brazil, students witnessed the impact of inflation on society through company visits and exploration. Their visit to the Brazilian Development Bank



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAIDAN WOO

CSUF business students visited the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during a winter study-abroad trip.

highlighted the role that banks play in supporting government initiatives.

“The students not only developed academically, but also experienced tremendous personal growth,” said Jenny Zhang, associate dean of the College of Business and Economics, who accompanied students on the trip.

Zhang added, “Students were very engaged with company visits and asked good questions to understand more about the country, how business

functions and what job searches look like in that country.”

CSUF’s Business Honors Program gives students opportunities to collaborate with faculty, gain hands-on business experience and network with industry professionals. The program’s graduates work at top companies, including Goldman Sachs, Boeing, PepsiCo, The Walt Disney Co. and the Big Four accounting firms.

Phoebe Sakhvani, a business

administration major with a concentration in marketing, shared that her experience studying abroad fueled her desire to work at a global company post-graduation.

“It’s interesting to interact with different cultures across the world,” she said. “I loved getting the chance to learn more about a country’s history, food and architecture. To be able to work at a company that would allow me to travel would be a dream.”

VISION & VISIONARIES

Colwell honored for service to students, community at Arboretum

Conservationist cultivates education, research

By **Jenelyn Russo**,
contributing writer

In honor of their accomplishments in their respective fields and their service and support of the university, Cal State Fullerton recognized four Distinguished Alumni and two Honorary Alumni on Feb. 24 as the 2024 CSUF Vision & Visionaries Award recipients.

Established in 1994, the biennial awards are the highest honors presented by CSUF to alumni and community supporters.

Fran Colwell knew early on that he wanted to pursue a career in science and conservation. Inspired by the first Earth Day in 1970, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in forest watershed management in his home state at the University of Arizona in 1977.

Colwell went on to have a 40-year career with the United States Forest Service at several locations across the West. After his retirement in 2012, he found a new outlet for his love of conservation and public service through volunteering at the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton.

In recognition of all the ways he has served the community at the Arboretum, the Friends of the Arboretum and the many Titan students who are being trained up as the next generation of conservationists, Colwell has been named a 2024 CSUF Vision & Visionaries Honorary Alumni award winner.

Early interest

Growing up, Colwell and his family spent countless hours outdoors, hiking and camping in the desert and the mountains of Nevada and Arizona. The 1970 Earth Day sparked his interest in the environment, and as a first-generation college student, he felt fortunate to study forestry at a school in the middle of the desert in Tucson.

After graduation, Colwell’s first job opportunities were as a wildland firefighter and a forestry technician. His eventual positions with the U.S. Forest Service took him to various locations across Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, Colorado and eventually Southern California, his last stop, where he served as the San Bernardino National Forest director of Public Services and managed the Recreation Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers program. He was also the liaison to several local nonprofits that provided thousands of forest volunteers.

“It was a really rewarding, interesting, challenging and satisfying career,”



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Fran Colwell’s career in conservation includes more than 40 years with the United States Forest Service.

Colwell said.

Even after retiring, Colwell had no intentions of slowing down. The Placentia resident got connected with CSUF through the Osher Lifelong Living Institute, where he took classes and volunteered on committees. As he was walking to class one day, he discovered the Arboretum, and he figured there was no better place for a retired forester to

get involved than with a tree sanctuary, so he asked how he could help.

“In the Forest Service, we have a motto of caring for the land and serving people,” Colwell said. “So that’s a pretty good description of the ethic that I brought to my support for the Arboretum. To me, it was like a little ranger district integrated right there on campus with a multiple-use mission — serving the community

and supporting students through conservation, education and research.”

Combining passions

Colwell began his volunteer service at the Arboretum by pulling weeds, a task he still happily takes on to this day. But his contributions haven’t stopped there. He has served on the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum nonprofit organization, including three years as president. He also participated in the campus master plan, helping to transition the Arboretum from the 40-year Arboretum Joint Powers Agreement to University governance in 2020.

“It’s really helped me with my progression and passion for conservation and the environment,” Colwell said. “I love staying engaged with all the learning and opportunities there at Cal State Fullerton. There’s a lot of energy and diversity on campus, and it combines with my passions for plant conservation and student success.”

Additionally, Colwell assisted with the transfer of a \$1.4 million gift to the CSUF Philanthropic Foundation for the permanent Arboretum endowment, and he and his wife, Sandy Koizumi, are sponsors of CSUF students through the Engaging Environmental Experiences program, an initiative that helps students develop their academic experience and leadership skills by engaging in real-world environmental service projects.

“Sandy and I believe it’s really important to help in any way that we can to develop that next generation of conservation leaders,” Colwell said of E3. “It’s a really unique opportunity, a relevant example of experiential learning ... and it’s a program that we’re very happy to continue to support.”

Advancing the mission

Upon learning that he was a 2024 CSUF Vision & Visionaries Honorary Alumni selection, Colwell was “surprised, honored, delighted and humbled to be in such rarified company.” He feels fortunate to be able to continue his passion for conservation, research and education through advancing the mission of the Arboretum, and he knows that these Titans are well on their way to doing great things.

“You read about challenging issues like climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss and environmental justice. ... they’re in the headlines every day,” Colwell said. “We’re so fortunate to have a high-quality university like Cal State Fullerton in Orange County that offers that focused education, research and outreach through the Arboretum for the students to be able to take these projects on and be successful in developing their skills in learning about the environment.”

COMMUNITY

Orange County civic leaders honored for public service

CSUF News Media Services

Three Orange County civic leaders were recognized March 7 at the Lawrence de Graaf Center for Oral and Public History's "Celebrating Orange County's Political Legacy" dinner.

"These honorees were selected for their longtime public service to Orange County and the state of California in both elected and appointed roles," said Natalie M. Fousekis, center director and professor of history. "Each tells a story about their path to crafting policy, serving the community, and in some cases, running for elected office."

The center's Orange County Politics Project began in 2013 and examines the history of local politics and politicians. There are 28 oral histories in the collection, including the 2024 honorees.

Bill Campbell

Bill Campbell grew up in Pico Rivera but has lived in Orange County for more than 50 years. His aunt instilled in him the value of public service and giving back, influencing his decision to run for elected office. He was a California assemblymember from 1996 to 2002, including serving as the Assembly Republican Leader in 2021. He was also a member of various committees, including the Committee on Appropriations, Banking and Finance and Education.

In 2003, he was elected to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and worked to enhance the quality of life for residents. He was board chairman in 2005, 2006 and 2011. Before becoming an elected leader, Campbell was a successful businessman in the fast-food, aerospace

and microelectronics industries and recently retired from the Providence St. Joseph Hospital of Orange Community Board. He earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Loyola Marymount University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Tom Daly

Anaheim native Tom Daly's passion for local issues inspired him to run for school board in the mid-1980s. This public service led to nearly 40 years of serving in elected positions at the local, county and state levels. He served as a state assemblymember representing Anaheim, Santa Ana, Orange and Garden Grove and as chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee. From 1992 to 2002, Daly was mayor of Anaheim and led significant public and private investments in the city, including expanding the resort area around Disneyland.

Daly also served on the Orange County Transportation Authority board of directors, where he helped oversee a \$3 billion improvement program for road and transit projects. Most recently, he has provided consulting work related to the health care industry, including providing counsel to CalOptima Health, a nonprofit delivering mental health services, a COVID-19 vaccine manufacturer and the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly. He earned a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University.

Lucy Dunn

For 16 years, Cal State Fullerton alumna Lucy Dunn led the Orange County Business Council to ensure the region's economic prosperity and high quality of life. She is an ex-officio business



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Orange County political and civic leaders Bill Campbell, Lucy Dunn and Tom Daly

representative to the Southern California Association of Governments' Regional Council, which addresses transportation, housing, air quality and other issues. In 2001, Dunn was elected the first woman president of the Building Industry Association of Southern California in its 80-year history. She was appointed in 2004 to serve as the director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development and, in 2008, to the California Transportation Commission.

Dunn serves as director or adviser for numerous nonprofit boards, including Homeful Foundation, Pacific

Symphony, Orange County Human Relations and Jamboree Housing Corp. She serves as vice chair of the Orange Catholic Foundation board. Dunn has received numerous accolades, including the university's Vision & Visionaries distinguished alumni award in 2007 and was named one of "Orange County's 100 Most Influential" by the Orange County Register. She also was recognized by the Endangered Habitats League for protecting habitat and cultural resources. In 1976, Dunn earned a bachelor's degree in political science from CSUF and holds a law degree from Western State University College of Law.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

English major researches Black femininity in literature

CSUF News Media Services

Niyah Jackson's love for Black women's literature took root when she was a child. As a young girl, she wished she could read more books by Black female authors that featured Black characters.

"I wanted to know that Black women's voices were present in literature because literature served to educate, support and provide safety for me," said Jackson, a Class of 2024 English major with a minor in African American studies.

Jackson's research project focuses on literature's depictions of Black women, colorism and dynamics with Black masculinity.

Through Cal State Fullerton's Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program, which is designed to prepare students to pursue doctorates in the humanities, Jackson had the opportunity and resources (mentoring, workshops, graduate school preparation and annual stipend) to conduct her research alongside a faculty expert. The program was established at CSUF in 2018 through a \$444,319 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Jackson was selected as a fellow in the 2022-24 cohort.

Jackson, who plans to pursue her doctorate and become a professor teaching African American women's literature, is being mentored by Bonnie Williams-Farrier, associate professor of English, comparative literature and linguistics.

With guidance from Williams-Farrier, Jackson learned how to conduct and analyze qualitative research. She chose 25 intergenerational Black female interviewees from the '60s, '70s and contemporary women to help her understand the impact the Black community has had on their evolving relationship with femininity.

Jackson reviewed such literature as slave narratives, explaining that female slaves were among the first African American writers.

"I found that there are a vast amount of layers in Black culture that have a deep impact on the practice of Black femininity as a belief and practice," said Jackson, who was inspired by Williams-Farrier's research on African American literature, rhetorical traditions, and intersections of gender and language in relationship to Black female discursive practices.

"When I enrolled in her Language and Power in African American Culture class, it was her research and teaching that sparked a desire in me to dedicate portions of my professional research to Black women's contributions to African American language," explained Jackson.

Wanting to develop Jackson's writing abilities, Williams-Farrier invited Jackson to become a peer tutor for the English department's Writing Center.

"Tutors read over hundreds of papers every semester. It gives her the opportunity to see different genres, styles and processes of writing that will contribute to her growth," said Williams-Farrier, director of the Writing Center. "I observed the center for many years before I became the director, and I noticed there were no African American tutors. I took the initiative to recruit our African American students in English to work in the Writing Center. I'm proud to say that Niyah is one of the first three African American tutors I was able to recruit."

Jackson also became an assistant



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Niyah Jackson, English major

director for CSUF's Language Policy Ally program, which encourages students to collaborate with faculty on language policy and writing studies, orate presentations to writing intensive courses, and co-facilitate a workshop with the Language Policy Committee

for the National Conference on College Composition and Communication. She strived to find innovative solutions that tackle linguistic racism in academia.

"The Mellon Mays fellowship program and my mentor, Professor Williams-Farrier, provided me with support,

leadership and guidance that has allowed me to further my research, present my research at various conferences, and acquire new opportunities as a student and researcher to ultimately lead me in the right direction toward my future," said Jackson.

BASKETBALL

Defensive standout reflects on his career at CSUF

By Brian Robin,
contributing writer

He won't allow himself the luxury of looking back. Not yet. The dust hasn't settled, the ending is too raw, unpleasant and uncomfortable and the highs — numerous as they were — are too removed from the recent to be easily embraced.

Eventually, Tory San Antonio will see his name in the Cal State Fullerton basketball record book, the line crediting him with being the Big West Defensive Player of the Year, and smile. He'll remember a Friday evening in March 2022 when he found himself guarding Duke's Paolo Banchero on national TV, with CBS' Jim Nantz at the mic. The same Paolo Banchero who would be the NBA Draft's No. 1 overall pick three months later.

"I think I did all right," San Antonio said about the Titans' first-round loss to a Duke team that played for the national championship two weeks later.

See? San Antonio does remember the little things.

There were more. Lots more. He'll remember other things along the way that led to those moments. Absorbing the quiet, lead-by-example work ethic of Jackson Rowe, the play-everywhere versatility of Davon Clare, the efficient and intelligent Austen Awosika, who showed San Antonio the intricacies of playing point guard in college. All these lessons awaited San Antonio when he arrived on the CSUF campus from Moreno Valley in 2019, fresh off an All-CIF career as a three-star recruit at Rancho Verde High School.

He'll remember absorbing those lessons, applying them and conveying them to his younger teammates along the way. And he'll remember a journey that—now that it's over—stands out in its own Rowe-like, quiet, understated way.

When you rewind the tape, which he'll do eventually, San Antonio's career was full of moments. He endured COVID-abbreviated freshman and sophomore seasons, played in an NCAA Tournament as a junior, went to two Big West Tournament finals, became the first Titan since Frank Robinson in 2007-08 to be named Big West Defensive Player of the Year and suffered through a frustrating, injury-plagued final season in which the Titans finished ninth and missed the Big West Tournament.

"This past year hurt, but taking a step back means there's only going to be



PHOTO COURTESY CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES
Tory San Antonio

steps forward from here on up," he said, referring to foot, wrist and ankle injuries that kept him out of nine games this season.

Indeed. San Antonio is more than a been-there, done-that, own-the-T-shirt survivor — and not just because he's the only one of six players in the Titans' 2019 high school recruiting class to finish his career at CSUF. Even if the numbers try telling you otherwise.

Yes, the numbers. When you look at San Antonio's numbers, your eyes glaze over, looking for that eye-popping statistic that implies impact. You won't find it.

San Antonio never averaged more than the 8.5 points he tallied this past season. He finished with a career average of 6.0 ppg. His best rebounding season was 2022-23 (4.7) and he averaged 3.7 for his career. He averaged 1.5 assists and shot 39.7% for his career, 34.6% from beyond the 3-point arc, although he cracked 40% from long distance twice in his five seasons.

And unless you dig deeper and see what San Antonio meant to a CSUF program, you won't understand one underrated reason the Titans went to back-to-back Big West Tournament title games in 2022 and 2023. You need more clarification, so why not ask the expert, CSUF Coach Dedrique Taylor, to help you grasp San Antonio's impact.

"Tory has been everything in our program, and Titan basketball has become us because of his contributions," Taylor said. "His work ethic, his ability to execute all the tough details that allow you to win is who Tory San Antonio is. I cannot say enough about his willingness to define what toughness looks like on a day-to-day basis.

"He embraces his role as a defensive stopper and his effort is undeniable. He is what winning is all about."

Even before he arrived at CSUF, San Antonio was a quick study. He learned early that being a defensive stopper was the fast pass to playing time. His AAU team, West Coast Elite, was full of eventual Division I players who liked having the ball. It wasn't full of players who didn't need the ball and needed to find other ways to contribute.

"I figured this out on my own that I had to go out there, make plays and do things other people didn't do," he said. "I already knew what I had to do. Between my junior and senior years (of high school), I had that role where I had to step back and do other things. It really showed me that in college, there are different roles that change over the years. That helped me figure out how to help the team in different ways."

This helped San Antonio in different ways, because over his Titans' career, he played four different positions, because — thanks to San Antonio's defensive prowess — Taylor used him as a Swiss army knife. That explains how the 6-3 San Antonio found himself spotting seven inches to the 6-10 Banchero for spells, along with more regular stints guarding the 6-5 Wendell Moore and the 6-6 A.J. Griffin in that NCAA Tournament game.

Yes, this memory comes back rather quickly, as well.

"You can't forget the feeling and the experience (of playing in an NCAA Tournament). It's once in a lifetime. It's crazy," he remembered. "The travel, the hotel we stayed at, the dinner we were getting, the environment we played in. As a basketball player growing up, that's the type of game you dream of playing. Even if you're not playing, being in that situation, that environment, the energy

everyone is creating is great."

The reason San Antonio found himself guarding several future pros in that tournament game was because Taylor instinctively put him on the opposition's best player. That role solidified itself that 2021-22 season when Taylor brought in an armada of offensive players, led by eventual Big West Tournament MVP E.J. Anosike. A shooting guard/small forward who was an offensive option to that point, San Antonio remembered another revelation.

"We had three or four great scorers and people coming off the bench who were great scorers," he said. "I knew my role had to change, and if I wanted to play, I had to do something different if I wanted to stay on the floor. That was the year my role changed permanently."

It led the following year to that Big West Defensive Player of the Year award. San Antonio averaged that career-best 4.7 rebounds (second on the team) with 25 steals and 16 blocks. He was the proverbial defensive pest, guarding point guards and power forwards alike with an incessant, relentless style that thrives on discomfort.

"I wasn't striving for that goal, even though I wanted it. I played that way trying to win games for my team," he said about the Defensive Player of the Year award. "We got back to the (Big West) championship and even though we didn't accomplish our goal, we still went. I was surprised when they came out with that award. It was one of my most memorable accomplishments. I was able to say I accomplished something. I put my name in the history books."

Yes, he did. San Antonio left last week for Puerto Rico, where he's going to play professionally for Gigantes De Carolina, the defending Baloncesto Superior Nacional champions. Perhaps that explains why he hasn't had a chance to process what he endured, celebrated, embraced and survived the last five years.

"I haven't really put any thought into it. Not yet," he said. "I'm just glad I was able to accomplish something that most people can't really do when they're playing in their basketball careers — win a championship. When it's really set in stone and when I look back at it, it's going to feel good. ...

"This past year, I feel like I took a step back. That's how I coped with this past year. When I looked back, this wasn't the outcome I wanted. But my career here? I didn't do too badly?"

Not too badly. At all.

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At Cal State Fullerton, I earned my teaching credential and master's degree, and researched communication strategies for children with Down syndrome.

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