



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON

Anela Brown, right, reacts during the simulation of a 7.0 magnitude quake.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

EARTHQUAKE SIMULATOR SHAKES UP AWARENESS ON CAMPUS

Students experience what 7.0 feels like

By **Lou Ponsi**
contributing writer

Cal State Fullerton students were quite shaken up recently — for a good reason.

CSUF was among three locations chosen statewide to host the Great California ShakeOut, providing the opportunity for the campus and surrounding community to experience the sensation of a 7.0 magnitude earthquake in an interactive earthquake simulator, or, in everyday terms, a “shake trailer.”

Beyond the simulated earthquake, the ShakeOut event, which took place Oct.15

in the campus quad, provided resources on earthquake readiness with emergency management experts on-site to answer questions.

The Cal State Fullerton Police Department, the university’s Office of Emergency Management and Continuity and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services collaborated on the event.

“It’s a big community here and obviously a big campus,” said Lt. Cruz Alday of the CSUF University Police Department. “It’s an opportunity for us to partner with our state partners, Cal OES, and our emergency management and provide an educational tool.”

The event was a precursor to the Great

California ShakeOut Drill, a campuswide earthquake preparedness drill that took place the next day.

The main feature of the ShakeOut was the mobile earthquake simulator, where volunteers could take a seat inside the trailer and feel the jostling and rattling sensations that take place during a high-magnitude quake.

“It was an amazing experience,” said Angelina Stefano-McIntyre, a Fullerton College student who made the short trip to CSUF specifically for the ShakeOut. “I’ve never seen anything like this in my life. It was scary, though. I wasn’t expecting it to be that lifelike. I mean, you know that’s not real, but if that were

to really happen, it’d be scary.”

Stefano-McIntyre also said she picked up some valuable information on what to do when an earthquake strikes.

“I would just go running,” she said. “But they said don’t run.”

The Office of Emergency Services was on hand offering a variety of educational materials, including information about the free MyShake App that can provide an early warning signal, giving users up to 30 seconds notice before shaking starts.

The MyShake App, which can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, is available in

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PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN PANTLE

Talent manager John Pantle, who holds two degrees from Cal State Fullerton, uses his education to handle an international portfolio of performers and tours.

ENTERTAINMENT

How a talent agent’s mojo works: Turning passion into prosperity

John Pantle’s more than 30-year career

By **Larry Urish**
contributing writer

Successful entrepreneurs and businesspeople share many of the same qualities: adaptability, goal orientation, strong communication skills and strategic thinking, among others. Cal State Fullerton alum John Pantle possesses all of these qualities in great measure, along with one not normally associated with high achievers: anger.

“I grew up angry that I had to drive up to L.A. to see a great punk band show, or to Riverside to see a great ska show,” Pantle said. “I grew up angry knowing that (local early-90s ska band) the Nuckle Brothers were never going to

be on the radio. I grew up angry that the concert scene in Orange County was so limited. So I decided to do something about it.”

Boy, did he ever. Pantle – who earned a bachelor’s in communications-radio/TV/film in 1994 and added a master’s in communications-tourism and entertainment in 2021 – has more than 30 years of experience as a talent agent and manager in the entertainment industry. And his time at the university contributed to his wide-ranging success.

“I’ve done many things in entertainment and commerce,” Pantle said, “from jumping off stages with the Nuckle Brothers to running punk rock shows at Denny’s restaurants to booking events for the 2002 Winter Olympics.”

Pantle, a trombone player and singer, grew up in Anaheim listening to ska music. A natural networker, he later befriended a number of local popular musicians. “We’d go to L.A. and see live shows and wonder what it would be like to create a similar scene in Orange County,” Pantle said.

“I was a bellman at the local Quality Inn hotel when the Rodney King riots hit. What followed was about 18 months

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TECH TOOL

Learning to use AI to preserve endangered language

Cal State Fullerton

Humanities student Michelle Ramirez is using supercomputing and data tools to preserve the centuries-old Ladino language — with the help of a chatbot named “Estreya Perez.”

Ladino, also called Judeo-Spanish, is an endangered language originally spoken by Jewish people from the Iberian Peninsula who were exiled in 1492.

It is estimated that about 50,000 people — mostly older generations — speak Ladino today, said Ramirez’s faculty adviser Carlos Yebra López, assistant professor of modern languages and literatures.

Ramirez participated in the Titan Supercomputing Center’s student research program and learned about integrating high-powered computing, data science and artificial intelligence into her project to revitalize vanishing languages.

“By stepping into high-performance computing, I hope to show that students from the humanities belong in the world of data just as much as anyone else,” said Ramirez, a double major in Spanish and liberal studies.

The Titan Supercomputing Center is expanding the role of computational tools at CSUF and is a resource to students and faculty as they explore high-powered computing and data science, said Jessica Jaynes, center director and professor of mathematics.

“The summer research program allowed students across campus to work with their faculty mentors on cutting-edge computational research projects,” added Andrew Petit, the center’s associate director and associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

Yebra López, a Ladino cultural expert, turned to technology to develop the first AI-powered Ladino chatbot.

He and his collaborators, computational linguist Alp Oktem and romance language expert Alejandro Acero Ayuda, launched the “Estreyika” project, which translates to “little star” in efforts to guide future generations of Ladino learners.

“Estreyika stands as a model for using supercomputing and AI to preserve endangered languages worldwide,” Yebra López said. “By intersecting technology, language, culture and education, the project keeps Ladino alive in the digital age.”

Ramirez wanted to be part of the project, “Revitalizing Endangered Languages With AI: Estreyika, an Interactive Ladino Teacher,” because of the impact the chatbot could make on the Ladino-speaking community.

“When I learned how technology can be used for language revitalization, I realized there’s a need for cultural and linguistic experts who can serve as mediators in training these models,” said Ramirez, whose career goal is to become a state-certified interpreter.

Yebra López said the Ladino-speaking chatbot is trained with religious and cultural references. “Estreya Perez” engages in conversation with prompts in English and Spanish, and replies to questions about daily life and community dynamics.

The chatbot is also coded with specific grammatical rules and adjustments that reflect Ladino’s linguistic particularities.

“I like to think of Estreya Perez as a Ladino teacher that fits in your pocket,” Ramirez said. “She draws on conversational capabilities and is accessible through a user-friendly app.”

Yebra López and his students are working on refining the chatbot for system optimization. They analyze chatlogs to understand how Estreyika responds to users, identify and correct grammatical errors and modify code to fix bugs or glitches that affect performance.

“By combining computational analysis with cultural and linguistic expertise, we’re able to shape Estreyika into more than just a chatbot,” Ramirez said.

“We hope it becomes a model on how technology and the humanities can work together to preserve endangered languages with even more limited digital footprints. Most importantly, computation can be a powerful tool for preservation and accessibility.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON
Student Michelle Ramirez is using computational tools for her Ladino language project, under the mentorship of Carlos Yebra López, assistant professor of modern languages and literatures.



Ramirez and Yebra López test the chatbot named Estreya Perez, used to help preserve the Ladino language.

Earthquake

FROM PAGE 1

multiple languages and includes preparedness information along with the alert feature, said Jon Gudel of the Office of Emergency Services.

“The MyShake App is the only one of the few tools out there that you can get the notification before you feel the shaking,” Gudel said.

CSUF’s size and location provided the ideal space for the ShakeOut event, Gudel said.

“It seemed like a natural fit for a lot of reasons,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of foot traffic and a lot of inquisitive kids.”

Sinan Akciz, associate professor in the Geology Department at CSUF, was joined by geology students for a demonstration on how water comes to the surface during an earthquake and its effects on structures.

As water was added to a fish-tank-

sized model partially filled with sand and connected to an electronic device to create shaking, the water rose to the surface, tipping over mini cars and buildings in the model.

“And so if the foundation of your building does not go deep enough to that dry part, then even though your house is OK due to shaking, because it didn’t crack because of slip along the earthquake, we can still have damage because the ground has sunk as the water is coming to the surface,” said Akciz, who focuses much of his research on trying to find the ages and magnitudes of past earthquakes that have occurred along the San Andreas Fault.

The Great California Shakeout, which began in 2008, is a 1-minute drill in which people at thousands of schools, hospitals, churches, businesses and other facilities around the state have signed up to stop what they are doing and pretend that a major earthquake is happening.

They will be told to “drop, cover and hold on” and will receive tips and other information about how to be safe when the next major earthquake occurs.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON
Students take photos of the earthquake simulator on the CSUF campus.



Henry Serrato uses the interactive earthquake simulator.

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I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
TEACH
SPECIAL
EDUCATION

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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COLLABORATIVE STUDY

Research on biases in AI programs broadens student’s goals

Looking at how math, ethnic studies overlap

By Nicole Gregory
contributing writer

When Omar Diego Bello, 22, transferred to Cal State Fullerton from Cypress College, his goal was simply to become a high school math teacher. Since then, that goal has broadened. Inspired by his experience in STEM programs supporting underrepresented minorities and by professors who guided him to take on challenging research, Bello and his research colleagues last year presented their work at the Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education Conference in Boston. This year, Bello is contributing valuable research on bias embedded in AI for a major collaborative project called GπT: Generative Practice Interview Trainer—an AI bot that will be programmed to perform mock job interviews with students so that they’re prepared for real interviews when they look for work.

“Ever since I participated in research with Project RAISE (regional alliance in STEM education) and Dr. Roberto Soto, I began to be interested in the intersection of ethnic studies and mathematics, this being called ethno-mathematics,” Bello said. “This has led me to think about pursuing a Ph.D.”

His interest in math and ethnic studies was sparked when Bello once worked as a high school math tutor as part of CSUF’s GEAR UP program.

“When I walked around as an in-class tutor, I noticed that some students would check out and immediately lose interest when it came to equations and formulas,” Bello said. He began to think about this observation from a researcher’s perspective and saw the problem was not that the students couldn’t connect with math. Rather, math was being taught in a way that did not align with the students’ thinking.

“That’s when I began considering how to help students see themselves within math and stay engaged with it,” Bello said. “I believe ethnic studies is a solution where we can make math feel more relevant to students by making it connect with their culture, traditions, and lived experiences.”

Bello’s current role in working on GπT: Generative Practice Interview Trainer is focused on mitigating biases that are common in AI tools. Studies show that AI tools mimic human biases, such as assumptions about the abilities of certain groups of people to perform certain jobs.

Led by Alison Marzocchi, CSUF professor of mathematics, the AI interview trainer project is funded by the California Education Learning Lab.

To get funding for research into AI biases toward certain groups of people,



Omar Bello, a mathematics major at Cal State Fullerton

PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIDGET DRUKEN

Faculty members involved with the “GπT: Generative Practice Interview Trainer” project are, from left, Francisco Zepeda, Sunny Le, Edward Watson, Matheus Guerrero and Alison Marzocchi.

Bello wrote a grant proposal to the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Center, also known as UROC. He worked with Marzocchi and research teammate Giselle Cortez-Tlaxcuapan to refine the proposal, which UROC approved.

“Giselle and I are leading the student research cohort where we will be mainly looking at research on ethics and analyzing transcripts to mitigate AI biases,” said Bello, adding that he particularly enjoys thematic analysis of research.

The AI interview trainer project is an interdisciplinary collaborative effort, with a team that includes five fac-

ulty principal investigators representing mathematics education, statistics, and sociology, and five student researchers representing mathematics education, applied mathematics, criminal justice, and computer science, Marzocchi said.

“As it turns out, now that we are expanding our literature review, we’ve learned that having a diverse team to develop and assess AI tools is a best practice for mitigating biases and developing an ethics-minded tool,” she said.

Working collaboratively is proving beneficial to everyone involved.

For students, it allows them feel con-

nected to a community and having a team and home base within the larger university, said Marzocchi, and listed other plusses as “having a direct line of communication to a faculty member you’re seeing every week, learning to work collaboratively, developing your confidence through conference presentations, adding impressive items to your resume, and preparing for graduate school and beyond.”

The project also allows faculty to work with talented students like Bello and Cortez-Tlaxcuapan.

“At this point, Giselle, Omar and I have conducted research together under four different funding opportunities,” Marzocchi said. “They are my research partners and collaborators. I respect and trust them so much, and I am so grateful for the ways they’ve shaped our research and contributed to the body of human knowledge.”

Bello grew up in Anaheim, and as the first in his family to attend college, he credits his parents for encouraging and supporting him. “Reflecting on their struggles as immigrant parents and knowing that they sacrificed everything when moving here from Mexico, leaving their hopes and dreams, I’m grateful for their sacrifice, and I hope I am the brighter future for them,” he said. “I am thankful for them telling me I have a good heart and that I should always take advantage of any opportunities that come my way, which I would say comes from their love.”

Bello is on track to graduate in May 2026 and plans to apply to graduate school.

OCVIBE

CSUF alums at the heart of new entertainment district

Cal State Fullerton

When the new OCVIBE entertainment district opens in Anaheim over the next three years, a crew of Titans will be able to say they were there from the beginning.

OCVIBE communications manager Emily Sharp, who earned a bachelor’s degree in communications-public relations in 2015 and a master of business administration in marketing in 2022, is one of a half-dozen CSUF alumni who work for the OCVIBE district or one of its venues, which currently include the Honda Center and the Grove of Anaheim.

Sharp, who earned a bachelor’s degree in communications-public relations in 2015 and a master’s degree in marketing in 2022, and her colleagues — including Lindsey Brackett, who earned a bachelor’s in communications-advertising in 2021, Gillian Frey (bachelor’s, communications-advertising, 2023), Quinn Kim (bachelor’s, communications-public relations, 2016), Erika Muir (B.A. (bachelor’s,communications-entertainment studies, 2013), and Andie D’Avino (bachelor’s, sociology, 2025) — promote OCVIBE, market events at the existing venues, and work with the executive team on strategy and partnerships.

Progress is happening fast on the \$4 billion future entertainment district anchored by the Honda Center. OCVIBE will eventually cover 100 acres — about the size of Disneyland — with a food hall and several full-service restaurants, an intimate club and a concert hall with capacity for 5,700, an eco-friendly office building, public plazas and green spaces, and 2,500 apartments.

Sharp said the goal is to finish the project in time for the 2028 Summer Olympics, when the Honda Center will host indoor volleyball.

What’s compelling about working on OCVIBE is being able to create something that the community can enjoy for decades to come, several of the alums said.

“OCVIBE is very much like a startup,” Sharp said. “We’re building this from the ground up.”

Muir, OCVIBE’s director of media and communications, remembers that growing up in Orange County, there wasn’t an “epicenter” for entertainment, “so I’m



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON

From left are Lindsey Brackett, brand marketing manager for OCVIBE; Andie D’Avino, marketing manager for Grove of Anaheim; Quinn Kim, communications manager for venues; Gillian Frey, marketing coordinator for Honda Center; and Emily Sharp, communications manager for OCVIBE.

excited that future generations will have that.”

Muir transferred to CSUF to study communications and found like-minded people in the Entertainment and Tourism Club. Those relationships have continued, bringing her back to campus to speak on panels and fostering connections with fellow Titans at the office.

Frey, the Honda Center’s marketing coordinator, was a transfer student who got involved in CSUF’s Behind the Scenes business organization, which led to an internship and a full-time job. Making cold calls in an advertising sales class and giving presentations in business attire was great practice for a future corporate role, she said.

“I chose Cal State Fullerton because it has a great reputation” for launching careers in advertising, marketing and

communications, Frey said. “I was really happy to start my career, but I was sad to leave Fullerton because I loved it so much.”

Frey, who saw “Disney on Ice” at the Honda Center as a child, is excited about visiting the new restaurants and venues as a guest.

Muir loves being able to attend groundbreakings, building topping-off ceremonies and other firsts as the district comes into existence.

“I think the coolest thing for me to be part of OCVIBE is just being able to say I was there,” Muir said.

To Sharp, helping create and promote the county’s newest major entertainment destination is a Titan team effort.

“Every single person is invested in making this better because this is our community.”



Construction of the OCVIBE entertainment district in Anaheim is underway, with elements such as restaurants slated to begin opening in 2026.

VISION & VISIONARIES

University will recognize distinguished alumni and friends

5 honorees who advanced CSUF’s ideals named

By Jenelyn Russo
contributing writer

Cal State Fullerton’s Vision & Visionaries Awards celebrate the university’s most distinguished alumni and friends, honoring those whose achievements have made a lasting impact on the Titan community. As the highest honor given by the university, the awards recognize individuals whose leadership, innovation and dedication reflect CSUF’s mission to support its campus and students.

“It’s a way for us to recognize the best and brightest that the university has produced,” said CSUF Assistant Vice President for Alumni Engagement and Executive Director of the Alumni Association Bill Cole. “Those alumni that are making a difference in our world, changing the lives of people in medicine, in business, in education, in the arts, in athletics ... they’re making a difference, they’re changing lives and they’re bringing distinction to the campus.”

First established in 1994, the biennial program honors recipients in up to three categories each awards cycle. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes CSUF alumni; the Honorary Alumni Award is presented to those who did not attend or graduate from CSUF, but who have made a significant impact on the university; and the Recent Graduate Achievement Award honors CSUF alumni who have graduated within the last 10 years of the start of the nomination period.

Unlike CSU Trustees’ honorary doctorates, CSUF’s Vision & Visionaries Awards are unique to the university, honoring individuals who have significantly advanced CSUF’s vision and stand out as visionaries in their industries, communities and beyond.

Of the nearly 344,000 Titan alumni, only 160 have earned this prestigious honor. It is a list that includes recognizable names such as Elizabeth G. Macias, judge of the Superior Court of Orange County (2019), former professional baseball player Kurt Suzuki (2010) and former veteran reporter and NBC4 Orange County bureau chief Vikki Vargas (1996).

The nomination period includes an open call for submissions, with most nominations coming through CSUF’s colleges and deans’ offices. The CSUF Alumni Association Board of Directors then appoints a committee to review the nominations and recommend re-



Gregory Wright



Kristin Crellin



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON
Robin Holmes-Sullivan

ipients. Final selections are made by the university president based on the committee’s recommendations.

In his first experience with the Vision & Visionaries Awards, CSUF President Ronald Roshon carried on the tradition of phoning each of the 2026 honorees, informing them of their selection. The 2026 Vision & Visionaries Award recipients:

Kristin Crellin, senior vice president of Community and Membership Development for SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, who earned a bachelor’s degree in history in 1995at CSUF. In her more than 35 years at SchoolsFirst FCU, Crellin serves as the primary spokesperson for the educational community, leading initiatives in School and Community Relations, Financial Literacy, Membership Development and Advocacy across California.

Robin Holmes-Sullivan, president of Lewis & Clark College, who earned a bachelor’s and master’s in psychology in 1986 and 1990 at CSUF. Her appointment in July 2022 marked the institution’s first woman and person of color in this role. Prior to her presidency, Holmes-Sullivan served as vice president for student life and dean of students at Lewis & Clark, vice president for student affairs for the University of California’s 10-campus system and vice president of student life at the University of Oregon.

Michael Losquadro, who earned a bachelor’s in business administration-management in 1986 at CSUF. He had a 35+ year professional career that included roles as senior advisor for Campus Advancement, University Relations & Advancement, Office of the Chancellor for the CSU system and executive director of development at UC Irvine.



Michael Losquadro



Peter Mitchell

Losquadro was also a member of CSUF’s Gay Student Union during his time as a student and served on the board and as treasurer of the Elections Committee of the County of Orange, the first nonpartisan LGBTQ PAC in the U.S.

Peter Mitchell is the president, CEO and founder of PM Consulting Inc., a recognized “top 100 political consultant” firm. Mitchell also serves as an advocacy consultant for the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association, is actively involved with the CSUF Philanthropic Foundation Board of Governors and played a significant role in reinstating the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Cal Pi chapter at CSUF.

Gregory Wright, senior vice president of research and development at Edwards Life Sciences, who earned a bachelor’s in biological science in 2000 and a master’s in biology in 2008 at

CSU. Wright has been instrumental in developing and co-inventing Edwards’ next-generation tissue RESILIA and launching the KONECT RESILIA aortic valve conduit. He also serves on the Dean’s Philanthropic Board for CSUF’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and was appointed to the board of directors for Goodwill Orange County.

The 2026 Vision & Visionaries Awards reception and dinner, honoring these five individuals, will be held Feb. 28, 2026,.

“These are the types of people that are being produced at Cal State Fullerton,” Cole said, “... and it’s a way for us to keep our best and our brightest connected to our campus by making sure that they know that we recognize what they’ve done and that they’re bringing us distinction.”

ANIMATION CLUB START

Alum designs scenes for Cartoon Network, Netflix and Warner Bros.

Cal State Fullerton

As a child, Cristina Zuniga watched in awe as a swirl of magic transformed Maleficent into a fire-breathing dragon in Disney’s animated film “Sleeping Beauty.” That moment inspired Zuniga to pursue a career in animation.

Born into a family of artists, Zuniga’s mother and older sister taught her how to draw and study animation styles from Disney’s Don Bluth to Studio Ghibli’s Hayao Miyazaki.

Zuniga met several Cal State Fullerton alumni who attributed their professional success to the training and hands-on experiences they received in the College of the Arts. Their praise for the university influenced her decision to choose CSUF.

“I wanted to be a part of a team of creatives to bring stories to life and collaborate on making entertaining art,” said Zuniga, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in art-entertainment art/animation in 2020.

She has worked as a background designer and supervisor on “We Baby Bears” at Cartoon Network Studios for two seasons. She also worked on backgrounds for a new Netflix show and created designs for the animated television series “Bat Family” and “Super Mutant Magic Academy” at Warner Bros. Animation.

Before she launched her career, Zuniga grew her art portfolio in the WIA club (formerly Women in Animation) at CSUF. Serving as vice president of the student organization, she networked with professionals in the animation industry, developed her creative style and participated in behind-the-scenes preview events with such companies as Warner Animation Group.

“A lot of industry professionals talk about the importance of networking and getting involved with clubs like WIA is one of the earliest steps in growth. The people you meet will one day become your peers in the industry, and it’s through these connections that you gain not only friendship, but opportunities in the field,” said Zuniga.

As a student, she had the opportunity to observe the animation production process for the films “Scoob!” and “DC League of Super-Pets.” Through WIA’s mentorship program, Zuniga also had her portfolio reviewed by Michael Kurinsky, the production designer on “Scoob!”



Cal State Fullerton art alum Cristina Zuniga

“After narrowing down what my strengths were and educating myself on the different job positions in the animation industry, I cemented my decision to become the background designer that I am today,” said Zuniga.

WIA opens doors for future animators

For more than two decades, the WIA club at Cal State Fullerton has equipped students like Cristina Zuniga with the creative and practical skills they need to launch careers in animation.

WIA has grown to include more than 10,000 members worldwide. The CSUF chapter promotes opportunity in the animation industry, provides industry-related resources, and supports students with guest speaker events, workshops and networking mixers. “The club aims to form a welcoming community of students who are interested in learning more about the animation industry,” said Barbara Malley, lecturer in art and adviser for WIA at CSUF. “At weekly meetings, the officers and the students network and discuss animation news, tips on portfolio development, posting work on social media, and creating and producing content for various platforms.”

In addition to Zuniga, fellow club alumni include Geramiah Profeta, a production assistant at DreamWorks Animation; Teeny Nadeau, who was awarded a \$10,000 Skechers Scholarship; and Haley Enos, who landed a production internship with Nickelodeon Animation.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON

One of Zuniga’s background designs



The annual fundraiser included performances by two student groups: Ballet Folklorico and Mariachi Titans.

FUNDING

Celebración de CSUF: ¡Somos Titans! raises \$177,000

Cal State Fullerton

Live music filled the air at Celebración de CSUF: ¡Somos Titans! as the university community came together to raise \$177,000 for student programs and scholarships.

The celebration featured performances by student groups Mariachi Titans and Ballet Folklorico de CSUF as well as an exclusive concert by Grammy Award-winning band La Santa Cecilia.

CSUF President Ronald Rochon welcomed university leaders, donors, faculty, staff, alumni and community members to the fourth annual event, which was held in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton.

Last year, CSUF was one of nine institutions to earn recertification of the Seal of Excelencia by Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit organization committed to advancing Latino student success. Rochon also noted CSUF's history as a Hispanic-Serving Institution for more than 20 years, with over half of the campus's 45,000 students identifying as Hispanic/Latino.

“At Cal State Fullerton, we want to ensure that all of our students are graduating, pursuing their dreams, and doing more to serve not just their families, but this nation and the globe,” said Rochon. “That’s what this institution is about. That’s what our mission is about.”

Political science student and Associated Students Inc. Vice President Juan Salguero spoke about the importance of donor-supported programs and scholarships and how they are transforming education for students.

Since ¡Somos Titans! launched in 2022, the event has raised more than \$750,000 for such programs as Abrego Future Scholars, Latino Communications Institute, ASI Food Pantry and the Educational Opportunity Program.

“It’s clear that Cal State Fullerton is building a foundation for future generations, for the Titans of tomorrow,” said Salguero. “Your support fuels dreams. It opens doors, and it reminds students that they’re seen, valued and that they are never alone in this journey. Together, we’re shaping a future where every student, no matter their background, can thrive, lead and leave a legacy of their own.”

As a student leader, Salguero has had the opportunity to participate in several events and campus initiatives that exemplify ASI's dedication to helping students celebrate their identities, including the Beyond the Conversation series, which has invited such speakers as Danny Trejo, Stephanie Beatriz and Diane Guerrero to campus to spark dialogue about identity and culture.

He also highlighted the significance of campus spaces like the Latinx Community Resource Center, where students



Ingrid Otero Smart shares the impact of CSUF.



Artist Ever Galvez creates a unique artwork during the event.



University leaders, donors, faculty, staff, alumni and community members attended Celebración de CSUF: ¡Somos Titans! on Oct. 5 in the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton.

can build connections that will positively impact their college experience.

CSUF alum Jonathan Morales, who earned a bachelor's degree business in administration-marketing in 2006 and who serves on the university's Philanthropic Foundation board of governors, shared his experience as a first-generation college student who launched his career as a California community bank-

ing executive for JPMorgan Chase.

“Serving students on their journey takes a village, and your support is exactly what the university needs to provide students with the tools and resources they need to go into the world and achieve their dreams,” said Morales.

Titans Rosalina Davis (bachelor's, Spanish, 1977), Henry Mendoza (bachelor's, business administration-account-

ing, 1981), Teresa Saldivar (bachelor's ethnic studies-Chicano studies, 2012) and Gaddi Vasquez served as advisers for the event. The presenting sponsor was Ingrid Otero-Smart, president/CEO of Casanova//McCANN.

To learn more about giving opportunities to support student programs and scholarships, visit the ¡Somos Titans! website.

Pantle

FROM PAGE 1

of canceled events in Orange County. The hotels needed to figure out a revenue source, so I offered to rent the hotel's ballroom on days that were empty and throw a party with my band and some other bands. Mike Watt, from the band FIREHOSE, sold me my first show ever. We later booked Sublime, The Offspring, No Doubt, Samiam, Thelionious Monster and many other shows.”

With that, Pantle's days as a hotel bellman were over. As a Cal State Fullerton undergraduate, he booked shows with Beck, Smoking Popes and Inside/Out – which later became Rage Against the Machine. He also ran Club 8 1/2,

down the street from the CSUF campus, and later managed Reel Big Fish, a local ska punk band.

Studying communications at CSUF helped furnish Pantle with many of the skills he's used for years: carrying out research, developing an elevator pitch, swaying artists to work with him and leveraging his knowledge to assist his clients. He noted that, other than law, communications was the closest academic major to anything relevant to the music industry.

“The biggest considerations for all tours are concept and audience,” Pantle said. “How do you make the concept work and who is going to pay to go see it? Cal State Fullerton helped me realize that if you can explain a given concept in the language of your buyer, you can make anything happen.”

While the early anger has dissipated,

Pantle has always been a high-octane go-getter. Over the last three decades, he's served as director of the House of Blues Club Network; senior agent for both The Agency Group and United Talent Agency; VP of the APA Talent and Literary Agency; and agent and partner of the Sound Talent Group. He's represented Pitbull, Hall & Oates, Public Enemy and Run-DMC, among other headliners. Today, Pantle works at One Fiinix, a London-based live-music booking agency.

Multitasking proficiency, another skill shared by successful businesspeople, is something Pantle is constantly honing. During the normal course of a work day, he's staying current in industry news, dealing with any number of dilemmas, communicating with clients and his team, and scouting and cultivating new talent. How does he do it?

“I make a lot of lists, and I keep revisiting them to make sure I'm handling things the way they should and working on projects that fuel my clients and myself,” he said. “I end my day by planning out the first 10 calls and five major tasks for the next day. And then I go out back and have a cigar, because I've been a good boy.”

Pantle's vast industry knowledge, his networking and relationship-building talent, his willingness to take smart risks, and his ability to learn from both his successes and his mistakes have paid off handsomely for him and everyone in his orbit, he says. His advice to those considering a career in talent management and event production applies to virtually every endeavor: “Believe in yourself and your mission, and feel free to change your mission as you see fit. Flexibility and understanding rule all.”

HALL OF FAME

Confidence Burdick-Greenwood gained at CSUF took her places

Gymnast’s performance in 1970s honored

By Brian Robin
contributing writer

This was *terra incognita*, territory Karilyn Burdick-Greenwood was charting for the first time. Territory that her gymnastics routines hadn’t prepared her for traversing. And yet, it was territory her gymnastics routines made possible. This charting-the-uncharted-territory routine had become routine for Burdick-Greenwood. So routine, she’d grown rather accustomed to seeing her name preceding the phrase “the first ...”

- As in:
- Karilyn Burdick-Greenwood was the first Cal State Fullerton All-American women’s gymnast in program history.
 - Karilyn Burdick-Greenwood was the first Cal State Fullerton national champion in women’s gymnastics.
 - Karilyn Burdick-Greenwood was the first Cal State Fullerton women’s gymnast to compete in an international meet in Romania, where she won a bronze medal.

But Burdick-Greenwood didn’t have a week during the summer of 1979 — as the 21st-century snarkmeisters would call it — “on her bingo card.” There wasn’t a gym, a vault or uneven bars in sight. She couldn’t hear any screaming crowds or Lynn Rogers’ motivating, yet reassuring, voice. The same voice Burdick-Greenwood first heard as a 14-year-old at the Lakewood Kips gymnastics club, doubling as the same voice that, in 1976, recruited Burdick-Greenwood to the year-old women’s gymnastics team at Cal State Fullerton.

No. Burdick-Greenwood found herself in New York during the summer of 1979 in rarefied company that, nearly 50 years later, still triggers the goosebumps. She calls it “the highlight of her college career.”

And yes, it was another first. Burdick-Greenwood was named as one of Glamour Magazine’s “Top 10 College Women of the Year,” an honor that came with a week in New York replete with Broadway plays, trips to the opera and ballet, makeovers, meetings with Fortune 500 executives and, well, “just a whirlwind of a week,” as she remembered it.

Here. Burdick-Greenwood now found herself in the same company as a couple of previous winners named Martha Stewart and Diane Sawyer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAL STATE FULLERTON
Karilyn Burdick-Greenwood smiles in a candid shot during the 1977 season at Cal State Fullerton.

“I had to submit an essay and an application, and I remember sitting in the women’s gym at midnight, and a baseball player whose name I can’t remember helped me write my essay,” she remembered. “The other winners were from Dartmouth, West Point, Wellesley and schools like that. And here was Karilyn Burdick from Cal State Fullerton. Glamour told me at this point nobody had made a big mark in athletics, and that’s what captured their attention, and that’s how I got selected.”

Now, Burdick-Greenwood finds herself in more uncharted territory, where — for a change — she’s not the first. She’s the fourth women’s gymnast and fifth member of the program to enter the Cal State Fullerton Athletics Hall of Fame.

Burdick-Greenwood not only keeps company with previous women’s gymnastics inductees Rogers, Tami Elliott-Harrison, Carol Johnston and Barb Myslak-Roetert, but joins the 1977-78 Men’s Basketball Team, administrator Steve DiTolla, soccer player Becca Wilson and the late softball pitcher Taylor Dockins and late baseball coach Don Sneddon in this year’s class.

It was an honor not only long in coming, but one Burdick-Greenwood, by now, didn’t expect. She was in Nashville, visiting her son, daughter-in-law and grandson, when the call from CSUF Special Events Coordinator Spencer Crel-

lin came. Because her screen only read “Cal,” Burdick-Greenwood disregarded the call, joking that she wondered why UC Berkeley was calling her.

“I’d been told by (former coach) Lynn Rogers that I was nominated many, many times. I went to Barb’s and Carol’s and (baseball coach) Augie’s (Garrido) and Lynn’s inductions, and I was always impressed,” she said. “When I went to these things, I always told Lynn it wasn’t a big deal. After 50 years, it wasn’t something I thought a lot about. ...

“I really hadn’t had it on my radar, and it caught me by surprise. I didn’t realize how special I’d feel when I got the news. When I was told, I was on cloud nine. I’m glad it came this late in life. It’s a pick-me-up at age 67, and it was a big surprise that brought me an unexpected feeling of elation. I didn’t realize how special this was going to make me feel.”

The concept of Burdick-Greenwood being 67 — complete with two surgically replaced hips and surgically shrunk ankle ligaments that allow her to walk down the street without her ankles rolling over like Burdick-Greenwood once did during one of her stratospheric vaults — takes some fitting in the mental Samsonite. Especially if you ever saw her blast off a vault or spin off the uneven bars. And especially when you understand the impact Burdick-Greenwood had on the CSUF women’s gymnastics program.

Always a coach who saw five moves down the chessboard — he introduced nutritionists, brought in pioneering sports psychologist Ken Ravizza and even live pianists for the floor exercises — Rogers knew what kind of power and unharnessed energy Burdick-Greenwood possessed before she did.

Burdick-Greenwood said her mom got her into gymnastics to keep her “from tumbling down the stairs or swinging from the chandeliers.” Rogers brought that energy and raw power to CSUF and before Burdick-Greenwood knew her way around the campus, told her that she’d win a national championship in vault.

The following spring in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, Burdick-Greenwood validated Rogers’ crystal ball, winning the national title in the vault as a freshman. Employing a difficult vault Rogers introduced earlier that season, Burdick-Greenwood scored a 9.6 in the prelims and a 9.5 in the finals, making her the first Titan to win a national title in gymnastics and the first Titan to be named an All-American.

“I landed it, and it was a moment that went so fast,” she said. “You don’t know

how to compare yourself regionally or locally, and you get to the national level and he convinced you that you were better than everyone else and you believed it.”

The following season, Burdick-Greenwood finished second to Penn State’s Ann Carr in the all-around, earning not just the second of three All-American honors she’d win, but also earning that trip to Romania. There, she and CSUF teammate Bonnie Jordan mingled with college gymnasts from all over the world, staying in rooms they swore were bugged. Burdick-Greenwood won the bronze in vault and took fifth in the all-around.

In Burdick-Greenwood’s junior year, the Titans won the AIAW national title, beating Penn State by one-tenth of a point as Myslak-Roetert finished second in the all-around, Susan Archer fifth and Burdick-Greenwood sixth. Earlier that year in a dual meet against Penn State at Titan Gym, Burdick-Greenwood scored a 9.95 on the uneven bars, setting a program record that lasted for years.

“Lynn had such an influence on my life that I have to brag on him,” she said. “We weren’t a competitive program. We didn’t have Title IX or any of those things. It was a groundswell. We started the movement of competitive college athletics, and Lynn played such a role in that. He brought in athletes who were hungry and not past their prime and built us into a great program. He was ahead of his time.”

So was Burdick-Greenwood. She played a key role in a dynasty, and in every dynasty, someone has to start the engine. Someone has to be “the first.” And that person is invariably ahead of their time.

Now retired from a career as an auditor and financial analyst, happily living in San Diego, working part-time at a gym, where she talks about how “when the gym is in you, it doesn’t get out of you,” Burdick-Greenwood looks back on a career where being “the first” carries lasting satisfaction.

That satisfaction springs into the air once again when she thinks about the place that served as the literal vault to a well-lived life.

“I owe so much to Cal State Fullerton, and I promise to be a better alum,” she laughed. “I’m proud to say I’m an alum, and I’m proud to say I’m from Cal State Fullerton. I had so much success from all the skills I learned there, and Fullerton was an amazing place. I came out of there with nothing but confidence, which is what you need.”

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