Dance Team Clinches 13th National Championship

The Cal State Fullerton Dance Team clinched its 13th UDA/UCA Collegiate National Championship at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando, Fla., on Jan. 19. The Titans competed in the Division I Jazz category. Fullerton finished second in the Division I Pom finals, competing in the event for the first time.

“arried the unique opportunity to contribute to the scarce research about Latina/os in graduate school, while further developing the skills necessary to be successful in my program and professional career,” said Christy Sotomayor, a graduate assistant in the program who is working on a master's degree in psychology. “Working closely with experienced faculty members allows me the opportunity to expand my knowledge of research methods and critical thinking skills. Above all, I experience a sense of gratification knowing that I am working towards fulfilling EPOCHS’ goal of strengthening the environment for graduate students at CSUF.”

In 2009, while 33 percent of the total Cal State Fullerton undergraduate population was Hispanic, only 15.5 percent of the graduate student body was Hispanic. Since then, the number of Latino/a and Chicano/a students enrolled in campus graduate degree programs has increased from 686 in fall 2009 to 930 this fall, noted Catalina Olvera, director of the EPOCHS program and a graduate student working on her Ed.D. in educational leadership.

Established in 2010 to increase the number of Latino and disadvantaged students of any ethnicity who complete a graduate degree on campus, EPOCHS strives to create a campus culture promoting post-baccalaureate education, said Katherine Powers, director of graduate students, who helped create the program. The program was recently awarded $450,081 from the U.S. Department of Education. Total funding awarded to date is $1,975,533.

CSUF Honors Distinguished and Honorary Alumni

Cal State Fullerton honored four top leaders in their fields Feb. 13 during the University’s Vision & Visionaries dinner and celebration. The Vision & Visionaries Award is the highest honor that the Cal State Fullerton bestows on alumni.

The evening showcased the extraordinary achievements of Joseph G. Cervantes of R.D. Olson Construction; and alumni Daniel K. Huckabay ’03 (B.A. business administration-finance) of Commercial Surety Bond Agency; Darrell F. Jodoin ’85 (B.S. engineering-mechanical) of the Disneyland Resort, and Julie Miller-Phipps ’83 (B.A. sociology) of Kaiser Permanente Health Plan and Hospital Operations in Orange County.

While the evening honored the distinguished CSUF alumni and community honorees, it also featured musical entertainment provided by alumna Erin McNally ’02 (B.A. theatre arts).

Prior to the evening event, honorees discussed “What CSUF Did For Me” with students in the Titan Theater of CSUF’s Titan Student Union.
University President Named to National Coalition

CSUF President Mildred García, along with three other leaders in higher education, was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities.

The coalition is an international affiliate organization of universities in large metropolitan areas that share common understanding of their institutional mission and values – to provide leadership in addressing urban problems, through teaching, research and professional service.

"Over the past two years, the coalition's executive committee and headquarters have worked through a strategic planning process and I feel confident these individuals will help us carry out our vision for this organization," said Wendell Pritchett, president of the coalition and chancellor of the Camden campus of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

New M.S. In Software Engineering Program Begins

A cohort of 23 students is taking advantage of a new accelerated M.S. in software engineering program that began Jan. 21 through Cal State Fullerton’s University Extended Education.

Building on the success of the online M.S. in software engineering, the new program is designed to be completed in 17 months through on-campus courses. The first cohort includes not only California students, but also scholars from India, Vietnam, Taiwan and Iran. The program is geared to prepare individuals for careers as software engineers and managers in industry or government agencies and for advanced study as researchers.

Did You Know?

- **TUSK** magazine received first place and the *Daily Titan* received third in General Excellence at the California College Media Awards.
- CSUF is ranked No. 14 nationally among master’s-level universities serving their communities by *Washington Monthly*.
- Externally funded research in the College of Engineering and Computer Science has grown by 83 percent since 2005-06. ECS faculty members have undertaken 43 externally funded research projects in areas such as seismology, GPS and satellite communications.