Titans Take Talents to NYC

In hopes of landing a role in theater and dance after graduation, 11 musical theatre students landed in New York City during spring break next week to showcase their talents before industry professionals.

The seniors performed April 3 at the Snapple Center’s Jerry Orbach Theatre. A reception following the performance welcomed University alumni and the student performers.

“This is their introduction to NYC. Our students are seen by major theatrical agencies and casting directors with the hope that they can secure representation and/or employment in this most competitive industry,” said Eve Himmelheber, associate professor of theatre and dance, who directed the performance.

The musical theatre students are: Erica Beck; Michael Dashefsky; Devon Hadsell; Stephanie Inglese; Kirk Schuyler Lawson; Dominic Leslie; Charles McCoy; Jack Robert Riordan; Andrew Sattler; Mallory Staley; and Keaton Williams.

Faculty members also traveling with the students included Mitch Hanlon, professor of theatre and dance, who served as musical director, and William F. Lett, lecturer in theatre and dance and the show’s choreographer.

Latino Students Attend Campus HACU Summit

Approximately 100 Latino students from area California State University and community college campuses participated in a March 21 Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Summit at Cal State Fullerton. The daylong program focused on preparing students for corporate internships and jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

“The HACU STEM Summit provides students with insights from corporate leaders on how to best prepare for career opportunities with Fortune 500 companies,” said Antonio R. Flores, HACU president and CEO. “The reality is that we need to work together to increase Hispanic representation in corporate America and also to ensure that students are well-prepared to be selected for employment in the STEM fields.”

Jose L. Cruz, provost and vice president for academic affairs, who gave the day’s closing remarks, agreed. “This is a wonderful opportunity for Cal State Fullerton to reach out to Hispanic students and help them develop the skills they need to succeed,” Cruz said.

CSUF Scientist Helps Discover ‘Whale Graveyard’ in Chile

Cal State Fullerton scientist James Parham and colleagues from the Smithsonian Institution, Universidad de Chile and other institutions have discovered complete skeletons of whales 6-9 million years old and other marine animals in Chile.

The team’s collaborative research in what Parham described as a “spectacular whale graveyard,” located in the Atacama region of Chile, was published Feb. 25 in the London-based scientific journal Proceedings of the Royal Society.

The study, led by Smithsonian scientist Nicholas D. Pyenson, was funded by National Geographic grants to Pyenson; Parham, assistant professor of geological sciences; and their collaborators at Universidad de Chile and the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural de Chile.

The fossil-rich site is named “Cerro Ballena,” meaning “Whale Hill” because of the nearly complete skeletons of dozens of whales and other marine animals. Cerro Ballena is the densest site in the world for individual fossil whales and other extinct marine mammals.

The team’s involvement in the site happened by chance. In 2011, Parham and a team of paleontologists were in Chile to study a nearby bone layer full of fossils. During that visit, Cerro Ballena was uncovered as a result of construction work to build a major road.

“We were very lucky to be in the right place at the right time,” said Parham. “This site is an amazing window into ancient marine ecosystems along South America’s coast.”

Two of the study’s authors now are working in Parham’s lab to study Orange County fossils, said Parham, also faculty curator of paleontology at the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center, a partnership between CSUF and Orange County Parks that focuses on protecting and researching the region’s fossil resources.
Johnson Eanes Honored As A 2014 Woman of Distinction

Berenecea Johnson Eanes, Cal State Fullerton’s vice president for student affairs, has received a 2014 Women of Distinction Award for the 65th State Assembly District.

In honor of Women’s History Month, State Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk Silva invited members of the community to nominate women who have made a positive impact in the community. Johnson Eanes was recognized March 29 for her role in education.

Johnson Eanes joined Cal State Fullerton in 2012. She previously served as vice president of student affairs at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, a college within the City University of New York. She earned her doctorate in social work in 2000 from Clark Atlanta University.

New Site Monitors Titan Social Media Across All Platforms

A new University website offers a real-time look at the social media postings published through the University’s social media channels, including feeds from the campus’s Facebook, Twitter, Storify, YouTube, Pinterest and flickr accounts.

Functioning as a one-stop-shop, the site aggregates individual postings from multiple channels to provide a robust snapshot of content currently running on the University’s social media platforms throughout the campus, including the Athletics and Alumni Relations offices, Mihaylo College of Business and Economics, University Extended Education, and Associated Students Inc. For ease of access to the most recent Titan activity on social media, bookmark social.fullerton.edu.

Did You Know?

- Students gain real-world learning experiences through 14 faculty-led “think tanks” in the Mihaylo College of Business and Economics that bridge the gap between the University and the business community.

- Externally funded research in the College of Engineering and Computer Science has grown by 83 percent since 2005-06. College faculty have undertaken 43 externally funded research projects in areas such as seismology, GPS and satellite communications.

- Students entering Cal State Fullerton in fall 2013 had an average high school GPA of 3.48 and incoming first-time freshmen had an average SAT score of 1018.