Concert Pays Tribute to Jazz

Campus and community members dined, danced and thrilled to the talent showcased at the University’s signature fundraising event, Concert Under the Stars, held Sept. 13.

Professor of music and award-winning arranger, composer and jazz pianist Bill Cunliffe presented a star-filled lineup that celebrated jazz through the ages.

The “All That Jazz” program featured Cal State Fullerton students, faculty and music ensembles, including the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra and “Clockwork” Fullerton Jazz Singers.

Concert Under the Stars’ homage to jazz began with the swing era and such songs as “Muddy Water.”

A show segment on jazz in the movies and on TV featured “Over the Rainbow” and “Route 66.” Then came jazz in the ’50s, with dance performances by students and faculty members to such pieces as Tito Puente’s “Ran Kan Kan.” As the audience cheered, CSUF President Mildred García joined dancers on stage, demonstrating her salsa moves to the roar of the crowd. Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” put an end to the show’s music.

The entertainment concluded with a fireworks extravaganza that lit up the night. The event raised over $570,000 to support student programs and scholarships on campus.

Mark your calendars for Sept. 19 for next year’s event!

Alum Dan Black Donates $100,000 for Portable Planetarium

A $100,000 gift from Cal State Fullerton physics alumnus and entrepreneur Dan Black ’67 supported the purchase of a portable planetarium and related equipment that will be used to promote astronomy education and encourage careers in the sciences.

The dome-shaped planetarium inflates to 23-feet in diameter and has a capacity for about 50 people. Curriculum topics range from constellations and lore, the motion of planets, and the Milky Way galaxy to lessons in biology, geology and more. The goal is to enhance immersion and interactivity for CSUF students enrolled in astronomy courses; enable realistic observations as part of astronomy lab activities; and extend the college’s outreach to K-12 schools to encourage young students to pursue degrees and professions in physics and other science-related fields.

Cal State Fullerton in Top Tier of U.S. News Rankings

For its 14th consecutive year, Cal State Fullerton is ranked among the nation’s “Top Public Regional Universities (West),” announced recently by U.S. News & World Report.

Cal State Fullerton is No. 9 in the magazine’s annual ranking of these institutions and soars to No. 1 among regional universities in the West whose students graduate with the least debt.

For the “Best Regional Universities” annual ranking, 620 institutions in four geographic regions throughout the nation were assessed by their region. The magazine ranked 1,365 institutions overall for its “2015 Best Colleges” after collecting data about almost 1,800 colleges and universities during the spring and summer of 2014.

The magazine reports in “The Payback Picture” section that 42 percent – the lowest percentage in the West among regional universities – of CSUF students graduate with debt, which averages less than $13,000 per student. In contrast, at regional universities where students graduate with the most debt, that average rises to more than $44,500.
Oil Extraction Symposium Enlightens Audience

A panel of scientists, engineers, environmental agency and industry representatives delivered a primer several weeks ago on oil extraction in north Orange County before an attentive audience of campus and community members gathered on campus.

Held in partnership with Brea, Fullerton, La Habra, La Habra Heights, Placentia and Yorba Linda, the symposium drew more than 600 community members, neighbors, students and faculty members to the Titan Student Union to learn about the nature, scope and impact of oil extraction operations.

Panel members explained the processes involved in hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, used to extract oil and natural gas here and in other states and contrasted the differing methods and impacts.

Panelists included Steven Bohlen, state oil and gas supervisor at the California Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources; Robert Graves, research geophysicist at the U.S. Geological Survey’s Pasadena field office; W. Richard Laton, CSUF associate professor of geological sciences; Susan Nakamura, director of strategic initiatives for the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD); Trent Rosenlieb, a registered petroleum engineer and asset manager for LINN Energy; and Mark Zeko, vice president and principal hydrogeologist for Environmental Engineering & Contracting. John Breskey, CSUF assistant professor of health sciences, added insights, along with David Bowman, interim dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, who moderated the symposium.

Did You Know?

- Cal State Fullerton was recognized as a “Best Bang for the Buck” university and ranked fourth in the nation in an exclusive list of colleges in America that do the best job of helping students attain marketable degrees at affordable prices. (Washington Monthly)

- 52 percent of Cal State Fullerton graduates are first-generation university graduates.

- CSUF graduates earn more than the national average. CSUF graduates’ mid-career median salary is $84,400 compared to the national mid-career median salary of $72,026.