



### CSUF PLAYS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BREAKTHROUGH GRAVITATIONAL WAVES DISCOVERY

For the first time, scientists have observed ripples in the fabric of space-time called gravitational waves, arriving at the earth after two black holes merged a billion years ago — a cataclysmic event in the distant universe. This confirmed a major prediction of Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity and opens an unprecedented new window onto the cosmos.

A team of Cal State Fullerton faculty and student researchers from the University's Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Center played a major role in this discovery.

"This discovery inaugurates a new era of astronomy, where we are able to measure the movements of black holes from across the universe by the gravitational waves they give off," said Joshua Smith (above, second from left), associate professor of physics, who led the Titan team of faculty and student physicists and mathematicians.



### CHERRY ON TOP: ALUMNUS SHARES SHOW BIZ INSIGHT

Marc Cherry '95 wanted to be an actor, but there was something else in store for the theatre arts major. Earlier this month, the creator and executive producer of the hit ABC series "Desperate Housewives" and Lifetime's "Devious Maids," now filming its fourth season, met with College of the Arts and College of Communications students to tell his story and share career advice.

After finding early success as a writer/producer on "The Golden Girls" and a few short-lived TV comedies, Cherry hit a rough patch. "Technically I shouldn't be successful, because I had my shot and then I went through massive unemployment," he shared. "Usually when you're a writer after the age of 40, they take you out behind the barn and shoot you."

But the bills kept coming, he explained, and "poverty is a great motivator." "Desperate Housewives" became such an outrageous hit after this slump, he added, that his story of his years of suffering are now a Hollywood anecdote.

"I have nothing but affectionate memories of my time here at Cal State Fullerton," said Cherry. "(Being asked back) always means something to me — it's a validation that I went out into the world and I did good."



### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR SELECTED FOR OPRAH WINFREY'S NEW SERIES "QUEEN SUGAR"

Anthony Sparks, a long-time Broadway performer and now screenwriter and television producer as well as an assistant professor of cinema and television at CSUF, was set to meet creative force Ava DuVernay. But her search for writers to assist on a CBS pilot was halted when the show is canceled, and Sparks' meeting with the "Selma" director is too.

Now, Sparks is living the most climactic scenes of his screenplay yet. Winfrey and DuVernay tapped Sparks to write and produce for "Queen Sugar," a new series produced for OWN by Warner Horizon Television.



### 'iSTEM' PREPARES FUTURE TEACHERS FOR THE CLASSROOM

Teacher candidates like Jesse Arzt are getting the teacher training and high-tech skills they need to educate children in today's technology-driven classrooms through the College of Education's "iSTEM Partnership" with Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District.

Through the partnership, CSUF students are co-teaching in K-5 classrooms and gaining the confidence and skills to become STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) educators, said Kim Case, lecturer in elementary and bilingual education, who directs the partnership.

To date, about 350 teacher candidates have taught more than 2,000 K-5 students at four elementary schools, including Rio Vista. The program expanded last year to Melrose Elementary School in Placentia.

The iSTEM partnership has helped to boost the elementary students' aptitudes, attitudes and disposition toward science, said Case. Standardized test data indicate student proficiency in science has nearly doubled.



## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE: A MILITARY-FRIENDLY CAMPUS

Every year, Cal State Fullerton welcomes a new class of veterans and ROTC cadets with a range of programs to help them get the most out of their university experience. It's part of a campus and California State University system-wide commitment to honor their service to their country.

For many veterans, their first stop is the Veterans Resource Center (VRC), where they can receive tutoring, study and hold meetings. They also have a chance to meet other veterans and work on community projects together.

"Veterans are often older than other students," says Lui Amador, VRC director. "They've often had vastly different experiences than many of their student peers. Some are married and have families. Because they're at different stages in their lives, they may not think they have as much in common with other students. What veterans do have is pride in their service. The VRC and programs for veterans are ways that Cal State Fullerton demonstrates its support."



2600 Nutwood Avenue, Suite 850  
Fullerton, CA 92831

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit 487  
Fullerton, CA

## Did You Know?

### CSUF Online Graduate Programs Lauded

- *U.S. News & World Report* has once again named CSUF's online master's degree programs in business, education and engineering as among the best in their respective fields.
- The university's online graduate business program came in 11th in a list of 91 ranked schools; the online graduate engineering program came in 16th in a list of 62 schools; and the online graduate education program came in 34th in a list of 188 programs.

