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ECONOMIST MIRA FARKA

TITAN ECONOMISTS EXPECT U.S. TO AVOID RECESSION

While the U.S. economy will slow down appreciably over the next 12 to 18 months, Cal State Fullerton economists Anil Puri and Mira Farka believe it will manage to escape recession with the expansion remaining intact.

Puri, director of the Woods Center for Economic Analysis and Forecasting, and Farka, co-director of the center and associate professor of economics, presented their annual assessment of the national and local economy to more than 700 business leaders this fall.

"Just because the U.S. economic expansion is 10 years old does not mean it has to end," Puri began. "What is important is the strength of the recovery, rather than the length of the recovery." The advantage of having the slow recovery that the U.S. has had, he explained, is that the economy doesn't have imbalances.





WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY WINS FIRST CONFERENCE TITLE IN PROGRAM HISTORY

The Cal State Fullerton women's cross country team won the first Big West Championship in program history on Nov. 2. Cross country head coach John Elders credited the student-athletes as well as the coaching staff and the athletics leadership team for supporting the program that led to the team's historic championship win.

"This is a huge day for us as a program," Elders said.

CAL STATE FULLERTON NAMED A COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

Cal State Fullerton received national recognition for its student-centered approach to undergraduate education by the college guidance tool, Colleges of Distinction. The honor is unique among college guide classifications in that it recognizes excellence exhibited in the classroom and the incorporation of high-impact practices throughout students' undergraduate education. Such student-centered programs include first-year orientation, seminars and advising; collaborative learning and interdisciplinary coursework; undergraduate research; diversity and global learning programs; a focus on writing and oral communication skills; and capstone courses.

"Through ongoing campus-wide partnerships and the continuous integration of technology, we have cut our graduation achievement gap by more than half in the past three years, while elevating our graduation rates," said Elizabeth Boretz, assistant vice president for student success and director of the Academic Advisement Center.

NEUTRON STARS, BLACK HOLES AND EINSTEIN'S THEORY OF GENERAL RELATIVITY

Cal State Fullerton physicists and their students at the Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center are making key contributions in the groundbreaking international effort to detect gravitational waves — ripples in the fabric of spacetime. This research is carried out by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, a group of more than 1,000 scientists from around the world and the United States, including Cal State Fullerton. The Gravitational-Wave Physics and Astronomy Center, which opened in 2012 in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, is a hub of scientific research and education that is preparing the next generation of students in this emerging field in astronomy.





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TITAN noun | ti•tan one who stands out for greatness of achievement



Titans of Giving

The Fullerton Arboretum recently received \$1.4 million to support the 26-acre botanical garden's operations in perpetuity. The funding represents the original gift of \$49,395 from James and Virgie Bacon in 1985 to create an endowment to "provide monies to assist in the operational and education activities of the arboretum." Over the years, the original gift has been augmented and stewarded by the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum.