

TITAN REPORT



MEDICAL SCHOOL BOUND: TWO BROTHERS FOUND SUPPORT

Blood brothers Mehtaab and Azaad Brar belong to a brotherhood at Cal State Fullerton that is empowering them to achieve academic success, lift each other up and become leaders. The brothers, both biological science majors who aspire to become medical doctors, are scholars in the Male Success Initiative-Fullerton. The initiative offers students of color programming, resources and a network of peer and faculty mentors to support their success in higher education.

“The Male Success Initiative has given me a support system outside of my classes,” says Mehtaab, part of the inaugural class of scholars who graduated this year. “To have such a motivated group of men around you, makes you want to be the best version of yourself.”

Azaad followed in his brother’s footsteps when he enrolled in the university as a freshman. He wanted to become involved in the Male Success Initiative after witnessing how Mehtaab formed bonds with the other students and discovered a community of like-minded peers.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT:
TITANMAG.FULLERTON.EDU.

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Cal State Fullerton Receives \$40 Million Gift

An unrestricted gift of \$40 million dollars to California State University, Fullerton was announced June 15. This funding, from philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett, is the largest gift in the university’s history.

“While we are still in the very early stages of allocating this gift, all decisions will be driven by our strategic plan and core mission of student success; diversity, equity and inclusion; and faculty research, support and retention,” said CSUF President Fram Virjee in a letter that was distributed across campus. “We will also be looking at possible infrastructure improvements, matching fund projects with our eight colleges and enhancing community partnerships. Of course, to ensure the enduring power of this gift, a large portion of it will be placed in our endowment where it will continue to generate funds to benefit future Titans and have transformative effects around the world for generations to come.”

BIT.LY/CSUF-40-MILLION-GRANT

COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATIONS FOR CLASSES OF 2020 AND 2021

Cal State Fullerton President Fram Virjee made a promise last year during the height of the pandemic to the graduates of the classes of 2020 and 2021. They would be able to participate in a commencement ceremony, once it was safe to do so.

Promise kept.

From June 12-15, about 3,000 graduates from the Class of 2020 and 7,000 Titans from the Class of 2021 took a celebratory walk across the commencement stage. Over the past 15 months, these Titan graduates displayed a resiliency that inspires and personifies why “It Takes A Titan” is not just a phrase, but a way of life.

BIT.LY/CSUF-COMMENCEMENT-2021-SPLASH

Former Broadway Stars Fulfills Dream of a Theatre Degree

After starring in such productions as “The Will Rogers Follies,” “Sunset Boulevard,” “Nine” and “Titanic,” Broadway singer and dancer Carol Smith Sparkman decided to start a family. But she always promised herself — and her parents — that she’d go back and get her college degree.

At Cal State Fullerton, she found a supportive community in the Titan Scholars Program, which provides support to community college transfer students from low-income, first-generation and racially underrepresented backgrounds. Funded by a Graduation Initiative 2025 Innovation Grant, the program focuses on academic skill development, professional development, advising, social integration and graduate school preparation.

“Titan Scholars allowed me to connect with like-minded students, provided an understanding of graduate school, and prepared me with options after earning my undergraduate degree,” explained Sparkman.

Sparkman joins the Class of 2021, graduating cum laude, and credits “excellent, excellent, excellent” theatre and dance faculty for helping her grow in her practice and broadening her awareness of the responsibility of a theater maker.

BIT.LY/CSUF-BROADWAY-GRADUATE

Titans of Tassel

The Class of 2021 is among the most perseverant, academically excellent and social justice-minded Titans in history. We are not only proud of their achievements, but we are grateful for the integral role they played in leading our community through this challenging time. They truly epitomize what we mean when we say...*It Takes a Titan!*

FULLERTON.EDU/TASSEL



2600 Nutwood Avenue, Suite 850
Fullerton, CA 92831

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TITAN noun | tī-tən
one who stands out for **greatness of achievement**



Titans of Giving: Don and Ann Pease

Don Pease, professor emeritus, and Ann Pease are retired faculty members who taught in the Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education in the College of Education. They recently donated more than \$500,000 to the College of Education to endow two faculty awards: The Don and Ann Pease Teaching Excellence Award to recognize a faculty member for program leadership, course development, and student and faculty evaluations; and the Don and Ann Pease Scholarship Excellence Award to recognize a faculty member for research, publications, conference presentations and outreach activities.

The couple is also funding an inter-block learning program grant endowment designed to encourage faculty members and “block leaders” who model and promote student cohorts to share what they are learning with one another and other student blocks.

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