



PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

The gift from Michael Losquadro, right, and husband, Dr. Brian Keller, will support scholarships in the College of Business and Economics.

FUNDING

\$1.5 MILLION PLEDGED FOR LGBTQ CENTER AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Alum, husband want to expand resources

By Lou Ponsi,
contributing writer

As a student at Cal State Fullerton in the early 1980s, Michael Losquadro was in the same situation as many Cal State students, having to hold down a job in order to pay for his education.

Looking back, Losquadro, now 60, said he was on the “five-year plan” to graduate from CSUF since he had to work 50 hours a week to pay for classes and, therefore, didn’t have the available time to take the full load of classes needed to earn a degree in four years.

Losquadro did indeed graduate in 1986 with a business degree and went on to a successful 30-year career in fundraising.

He also became an advocate for LGBTQ rights along with his husband and partner of 30 years, Dr. Brian Keller.

Motivated by a desire to ease the burden and provide more resources for future CSUF students, Losquadro and Keller have pledged a \$1.5 million planned gift to the university to benefit the LGBT Queer Resource Center and student scholarships in the College of Business and Economics.

The center will be named in their honor as the Losquadro Keller LGBTQ Resource Center. A renaming celebration will take place following National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

Of their gift, 80% will benefit the center and its programming.

“I’d like to make things a little bit easier for students in the future so that they could focus more on their classroom activity and maybe even have a little bit more fun than I did,” Losquadro said. “Looking back on my college days, I can’t exactly say it was a whole lot of fun because I was working so hard. So that

was kind of the genesis of the scholarship.”

The pledged endowment also helps Losquadro and his husband fulfill their own philanthropic dreams, he said.

Losquadro, incidentally, has spent decades supporting LGBTQ causes, including Orange County’s first Gay Pride event in 1989, the fight against AIDS in the 1980s and the national march on Washington for gay rights in 1993.

Once the funds are received by the university, they’ll be invested and earn annual returns, Losquadro said.

The fund will exist in perpetuity as long as the university exists and the stock markets don’t completely crash, he said.

“This gift will give students the opportunity to thrive in a multitude of ways through the center, while they pursue their education,” said Nat Betancourt Arellano, senior director of the LGBT Queer Resource Center. “During a time when LGBTQ+ people are being attacked with hateful messages and pol-

icies, having someone invest so tremendously into our community really speaks to our future.”

The funds will also be used to support the general operations of the center, Betancourt Arellano said, along with potential initiatives to continue to create LGBTQ-affirming resources.

Additionally, the endowment will enable the center to continue hosting annual events such as the CSUF Drag Show, Queer Prom, and the Tusk Ball, the director said.

“The center serves as a home away from home for many of our students who come to connect with community, explore their LGBTQIA+ identities, and engage in programs and events that celebrate their queer and trans identities,” Betancourt Arellano said.

The center also provides support services such as the Gender Affirming Closet, a free resource where students can find clothing and other resources for gender expression, and the Ericksen

LGBTQ » PAGE 5

COMMUNITY

Doors to university arts events now open to all students

Tickets to performances, exhibits are free

By Jenelyn Russo,
contributing writer

Beginning Oct. 1, Cal State Fullerton students have complimentary access to all performances and exhibitions available through the College of the Arts. From theater and dance productions to music performances and visual arts exhibitions, Titans will be able to experience and enjoy all that CSUF Arts has to offer for free.

This unique opportunity has been made available to the student population through a collaborative effort between the College of the Arts and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The partnership will not only provide increased access to

ARTS » PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Dance students perform during CSUF’s Spring Dance recital in May 2022.

PROJECT

Tracing the history of Black business in Orange County

Mapping the past’s impact on the present

By Nicole Gregory,
contributing writer

Jamila Moore Pewu, assistant professor of digital humanities and new media in history, is working with students on a groundbreaking project that traces Orange County’s Black businesses and their history.

It all began when Natalie Graham at The Institute of Black Intellectual Innovation reached out to Pewu in 2021, suggesting that she might work with the in-

BUSINESS » PAGE 5



TITAN OF EMPOWERMENT

CSUF ALUMNA CHANGING THE GAME

Many professional baseball players launched their careers at Cal State Fullerton. **Kelsie Whitmore** is no exception. The former Titan softball standout made history when she became the first woman to play in a Major League Baseball partner league.

Learn more about how one Titan’s passion is paving the way for women in sports:

Cal State Fullerton



TITAN VOICES

A new policing paradigm: Holistic safety through tiered response

Upon being appointed chief of police at Cal State Fullerton, I met with the Titan community and told them that progress is impossible without genuine and transparent change.



Anthony Frisbee
Chief of police

My team and I have embarked on a journey to become the model of policing within the CSUF system and nationally by listening to the community and implementing tangible structural changes to enhance safety for all Titans. Together, we are deconstructing the historic safety system at the university, which relies upon the police to respond to nonviolent and noncriminal calls for service.

This academic year, we are excited to introduce two new transformational safety tiers at CSUF, including the newly developed Campus Safety Specialists (unarmed civilians) and the CAPS Crisis Mobile Response Team. Our safety professionals will begin responding to calls not involving violence or crime to assist your dedicated CSUF police officers who responded to over 8,500 calls-for-service, including over 3,000 emergency (911) calls already this year.

■ CSUF PD Campus Safety Specialists (CSS), are unarmed full-time personnel, who will respond to calls-for-service such as door unlocks, building checks, safety escorts, noise complaints, mental health crisis, and much more. The new CSS team members are receiving advanced training in crisis response, de-escalation, communication, and DEI.

■ Additionally, in collaboration with CSUF Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS), a new CAPS Crisis Mobile Response Team is being established to respond to Titans in crisis on campus. The team will be led by a CAPS licensed professional staff member and supported by a campus safety specialist. CAPS is recruiting two new mobile crisis response professionals to start responding in 2024.

Our officers, dispatchers, campus safety specialists, administrative support, and student community service officers are honored to serve more than 41,000 students and an additional 4,000 faculty and staff 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are dedicated



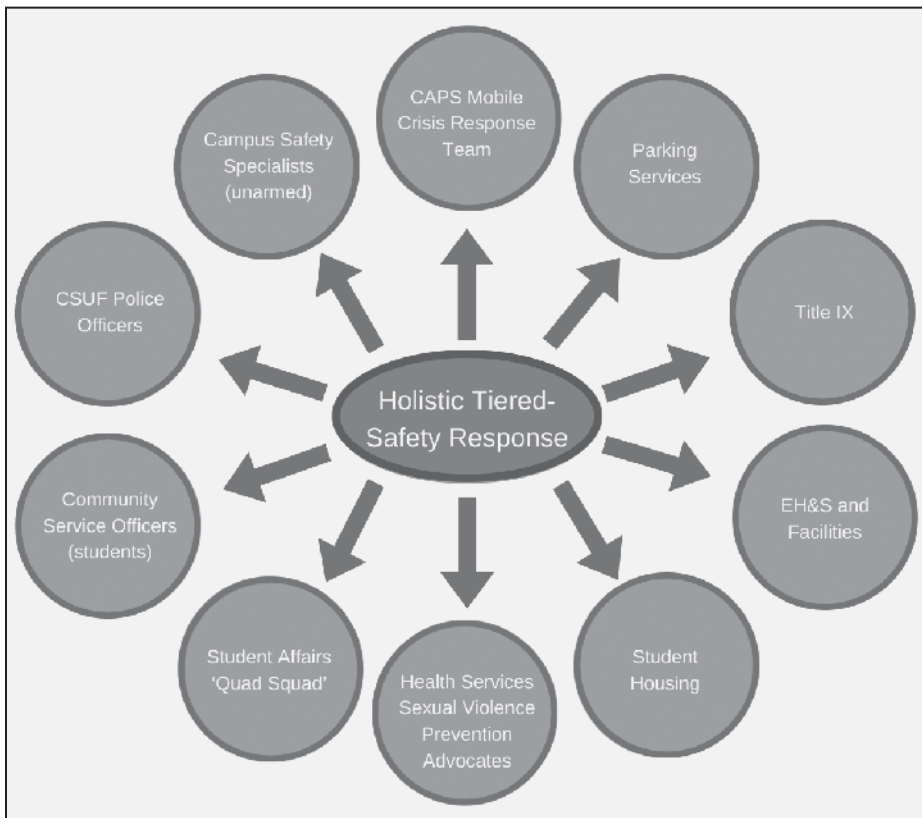
PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

The Cal State Fullerton police department maintains a presence on campus to ensure community safety.

to partnering with students, staff, and faculty to support a safe, inclusive, and welcoming university for Titans to Thrive.

For information about our programs and services, follow us @CSUFPPD or visit police.fullerton.edu.

Anthony Frisbee is the chief of police for Cal State Fullerton.



Chief Frisbee's plan for effective community policing incorporates multiple levels of engagement.



Anthony Frisbee, Cal State Fullerton's new chief of police

TOP 3

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U.S. News & World Report, 2022

Cal State Fullerton
fullerton.edu

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The Cal State Fullerton community section is produced by The Orange County Register for the benefit of its subscribers. While the university is the section's primary advertising sponsor, all editorial decisions are independent of the university's control.

Published on select Thursdays by The Orange County Register
2190 Towne Centre Place
Anaheim, CA 92806

ocregister.com/cal-state-fullerton

RESEARCH

Chemistry grad student studies sustainable energy solutions

CSUF News Media Services

Chemistry graduate student Oliver Solares is working toward finding solutions for clean energy and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

During a summer internship to learn more about sustainable energy solutions, Solares worked on a research project to convert biomass waste into functional, usable hydrocarbon fuel at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island in New York.

Biomass waste refers to bio-alcohols, which are naturally occurring alcohol molecules in nature. This research is part of the U.S. Department of Energy's broader efforts to use high-performance supercomputing tools for modern applications, such as developing new materials for solar energy conversion or next-generation batteries.

Solares was selected to participate in the Sustainable Horizons Institute's Sustainable Research Pathways Summer 2023 program. Through the workforce development program, under-represented students are placed in national laboratories and work with scientists to encourage lasting collaborations, jumpstart careers and build inclusive workplace environments.

Solares collaborated on research through the Computer Science Initiative at Brookhaven National Laboratory, which operates large-scale facilities for studies in physics, chemistry, biology, medicine, applied science and advanced technology. He delved into using computational skills he has learned by working in the lab of CSUF's Michael Groves, associate professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

His research with Groves also deals with finding energy solutions.

At CSUF, he focuses on phenol, a common industrial chemical that generates toxic waste. Groves and his students are

researching cleaner, alternative ways of producing phenol, such as using a carbon-based catalyst. Solares is applying computational tools to have a better understanding of the properties of this catalyst and its potential as an industry material.

Solares, whose parents immigrated to the U.S. from Guatemala, is a first-generation college graduate. He transferred to CSUF from Fullerton College and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 2022. After completing his master's degree next year, Solares plans to pursue a doctorate in chemistry and a career at a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory.

He answered questions about his research recently.

Why is this research important and how does it tie into your CSUF project?

My research at Brookhaven National Lab falls under one of the Department of Energy's primary missions to advance our understanding of nature and energy. My project examined a reaction that converts natural biomass waste into usable fuel using a manufactured catalyst. My national lab and CSUF projects require a similar skill set, where I use a computer to model reactions, except for complex math calculations performed on Brookhaven's and CSUF's supercomputers. My experience in Dr. Groves' lab made for a smooth transition to working at Brookhaven. Without the skills I have learned from Dr. Groves, my work at Brookhaven would not have been possible.

Why are you interested in biomass research?

The global biomass waste produced annually lies around 140 gigatons, making converting biomass into energy a top priority. My generation has the potential to stop the increasing amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. This research was a tiny contribution to that potential, and I want to keep doing research

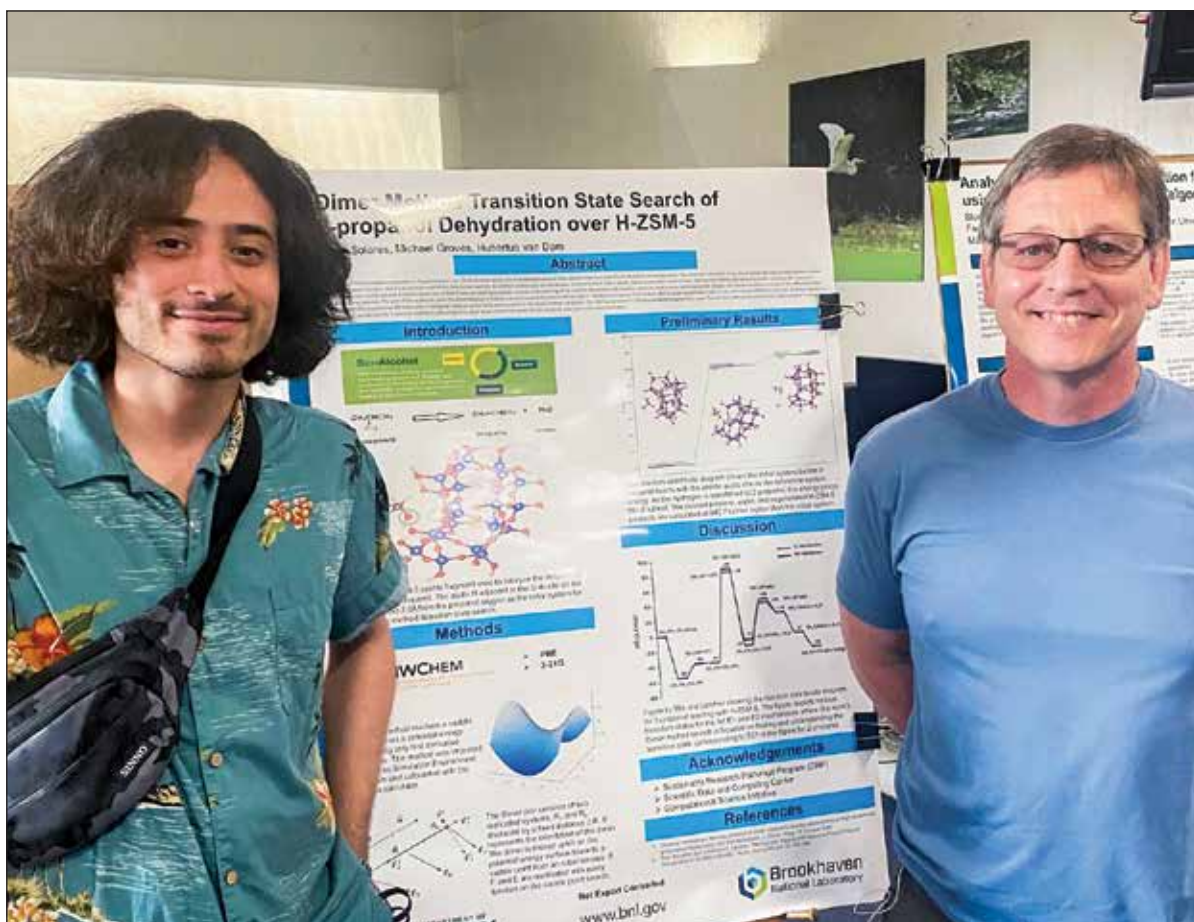


PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Oliver Solares, left, with Hubertus van Dam, his mentor at Brookhaven National Laboratory

that helps positively impact the planet. Additionally, this research is fascinating because supercomputers can accurately describe interactions happening at the atomic level. It's truly remarkable that we can perform these computational models and learn so much about this process without needing the physical catalyst or waste.

What are the benefits of working with your CSUF faculty mentor?

Dr. Groves is an incredible mentor who constantly gives feedback on my research and writing and helps me prepare conference presentations. I owe him so much. He dedicates a generous amount of his time to helping all his students.

How did your work at the national lab empower your CSUF education?

Working at a national energy lab was

the ideal summer experience for me as someone who wants to be a Department of Energy researcher. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see firsthand what it's like to work in a national lab with researchers.

How did this opportunity at Brookhaven advance your academic and career goals?

I wanted to get more research experience besides my work with Dr. Groves. It helped me determine if I see myself doing research as a career. This internship allowed me to make connections at a national lab and will give me a competitive edge on my applications to Ph.D. programs. I now realize that I want to contribute to a more diverse field of chemistry — and I want other first-generation, under-represented students to know that we are just as capable of doing revolutionary scientific research.

LATINX HERITAGE

CSUF redefines what it means to be a Hispanic-serving school

CSUF News Media Services

For nearly 20 years, Cal State Fullerton has embraced its designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, redefining what it means to champion Latinx student success by developing programs and services that support Latinx students and empower them to reach their goals.

Cal State Fullerton was designated a HSI by the U.S. Department of Education in 2004 for enrolling over 25% Latinx students. Today, Latinx students make up 50% of the university's 41,000 student population.

In 2021, Excelencia in Education, one of the nation's premier authorities on Latinx student success, recognized CSUF with the prestigious Seal of Excelencia for its leadership in engaging, enrolling and graduating Latinx students.

That same year, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs named Cal State Fullerton one of its inaugural Fulbright Hispanic-Serving Institutions Leaders.

"In the 18 years I've been on campus, there has been a monumental amount of growth and change, and we're still learning. The future of our Hispanic-Serving success is about providing students with opportunities to embrace their identity and fulfill their dreams," said Alexandro Gradilla, associate professor of Chicana and Chicano studies.

Supported by national grants, CSUF has developed unique programs aimed at helping Latinx students succeed.

"It's important that Latinx students see

themselves in the curriculum and the opportunities on campus," said Gradilla.

"Cal State Fullerton has exposed me to amazing professors and I've been able to take many eye-opening courses that have changed and educated me for the better," said senior psychology student, Jasmine Bugarin.

Outside of academics, students are encouraged to explore their identity and culture. These spaces allow students to fully embrace their identity and connect with a supportive community. The pride that students feel when they can truly be themselves is "powerful," said Gradilla.

"That is the future of our Hispanic-Serving success," he said. "Something else I've worked on and I've seen faculty across campus do as well is mentorship. That out-of-classroom experience, where faculty can provide advice, thoughts and opportunities, is important in making sure that students feel heard and ensuring they have someone to talk to.

"There is always work to be done, but we've made some significant strides," said Gradilla.

PROGRAMS AIMED AT LATINX STUDENTS

■ Project upGRADS (Utilizing and Promoting Graduate Resources and Access for Disadvantaged Students) is a five-year, \$3 million federal grant that supports the academic achievement of Latinx and other underrepresented graduate students. Selected as one of 20 Examples of Excelencia finalists in the nation for 2022, the program seeks to improve enrollment, persistence and graduation for Latinx students.

■ Project RAISE is funded by the U.S. Department of Education HSI-STEM grant that focuses on increasing the number of Latinx and low-income STEM students in higher education. Project RAISE students have access to hands-on research experiences, peer advising for transfer students, internship preparation and workshops.

■ Funded by a \$3 million Mellon Foundation grant, the university's first Latinx Lab for Storytelling and Social Justice teaches students how to confront social inequity through the art of diverse storytelling.

■ The *Ánimo*: Latinx Counseling Emphasis within the Department of Social Work trains bilingual and bicultural counselors to serve Latinx and Spanish-speaking clients and communities. Excelencia in Education named the program as one of 19 Examples of Excelencia Finalists in the nation for 2023.

■ The Latino Communications Institute trains bilingual students to become Spanish-proficient in the communications field. Students develop cultural competency, receive mentorship from experienced faculty and explore research opportunities.

■ The university received four California State University HSI community grants. Out of 17 funded programs throughout the CSU system, CSUF received the highest number of grants, supporting projects in mechanical engineering, humanities, education and theater.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

■ The Latinx Community Resource Center, the oldest of CSUF's ethnic centers, has been supporting students in the Latinx community for the past 50 years, offering programs that focus on the recruitment, retention and advancement of Latinx students.

■ The U.S. Latinx science fiction collection in the Pollak Library is believed to be the first of its kind. Curated by science fiction scholar David Sandner, the collection is built on the thematic foundation of Latino race, immigration and post-colonialism and intersects with sci-fi storytelling strategies.

■ Latinx Scholars is a student-led organization that promotes research, peer mentorship and social justice advocacy. "We realized that as transfer students and as first-generation college students, it isn't easy navigating these processes and spaces. We have worked to create a community and space to help other students feel supported throughout their educational career," said Ashley Yniguez, the club's co-president and a master's student in history with a concentration in Chicana and Chicano studies.

■ CSUF is home to more than 15 student clubs and organizations relating to Latinx culture, community and student success.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

Associate professor of Chicana and Chicano studies, Alexandro Gradilla, second from left, and Latinx Lab students, from left, Monique Garcia, Carlos Escobedo and Ashley Yniguez

FUNDRAISER

Celebración de CSUF brings in \$250,000 for aid, programs

CSUF News Media Services

Against a backdrop of mariachi music, dancing and traditional foods from Cuba, Venezuela and Mexico, 225 Titan supporters raised more than \$250,000 to help provide scholarships and support programs such as the Abrego Future Scholars, Latino Communications Institute and Animo Latinx Counseling Emphasis, for Cal State Fullerton's Latinx students.

The second Celebración de CSUF: ¡Somos Titans! ("We Are Titans") event Sept. 17 was an opportunity to demonstrate the university's commitment to its Latinx students.

"Thank you for joining us to celebrate and support signature programs and scholarships for our Latinx students," said CSUF President Sylvia Alva. "Today, Latinx students make up more than 50% of our 41,000 Titans. That's more than 20,000 Latinx students. Many are the first in their families to be attending college and rely on financial aid, scholarships and part-time jobs to cover the cost of attending college.

"I want you to know that your support makes a tremendous difference for our Latinx students, and that they really value and appreciate your encouragement and support," she said.

The Grammy Award-winning Mariachi Los Camperos headlined the festivities, which coincided with Latinx Heritage Month. Led by Jesús "Chuy" Guzmán, the musicians are well-known throughout the mariachi community, participating in numerous international mariachi festivals in the United States and Mexico.

Two student groups, Mariachi Titans and Ballet Folklórico, also performed.

Alva also thanked presenting sponsors who are governors on the Philanthropic Foundation board: Ingrid Otero-Smart, owner and CEO of Casanova McCann and Jonathan Morales, managing director and division director of community banking and business development for JP Morgan Chase.

Ambassador Gaddi Vasquez, the eighth U.S. representative to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization and a former director of the Peace Corps, was also recognized as one of the inaugural event co-chairs for ¡Somos Titans! Two Titan alumni, Rosalina Davis and Teresa Saldivar, local business owners and community leaders, were also recognized for their years of service in supporting Latinx students and making ¡Somos Titans! a success.

"Gracias to all of our amazing sponsors who are making an impact on Latinx student success through your investment in ¡Somos Titans!" Alva said. "I am inspired by the way the businesses and leaders in our community are making a difference at Cal State Fullerton."



Dancers from Ballet Folklórico perform during Celebración de CSUF: ¡Somos Titans!.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES



A musician from Mariachi Titans performs during the fundraiser.



CSUF President Sylvia Alva, third from right, and Ballet Folklórico student performers

LABOR

Communications expert examines issues of Hollywood strike

CSUF News Media Services

With artificial intelligence rapidly encroaching into the creative filmmaking and writing process, the need to protect the power of human storytelling has become the rallying cry of writers and actors who were on strike against Hollywood studios. The writers reached a tentative deal last week. Actors, at press-time, were still negotiating.

The pervasiveness of AI is one of many concerns that pushed the Writers Guild of America and Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists to strike against the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. This was the first time since 1960 in which the two unions have walked out simultaneously, taking with them 12,000 WGA screenwriters and 160,000 SAG-AFTRA workers.

Dana Cloud, a Cal State Fullerton lecturer in human communication studies, recently interviewed six actors and writers about their contributions and demands to the studios. The insights were published in a *Tempest Magazine* article, "This Is a War Against the Studios."

Walking the picket line, writers and actors were calling for equitable pay, AI regulation and studio executives' responsiveness to the strikes, said Cloud, who teaches an America Speaks human communications course that examines activists' voices from the American Revolution to modern social justice movements like Black Lives Matter.

"Storytelling shapes culture, and you need the beating heartbeat of a person in their point of view in order to be the storyteller that is shaping that culture," said actor Zuri Starks, (an actor with roles in "Chicago Fire," "Days of Our Lives," and "Family Reunion") who is featured in Cloud's article. "Artificial intelligence can't tell the story of the Black Lives Matter movement when it was happening. They weren't there."

Cloud's findings revealed the imminent power behind AI. Background actors could be called into work, scanned once, paid a day rate, and their faces and names are planted into any television scene, said Eric Owusu, a member of the Writers Guild of America in an interview with Cloud. In the writing sector, AI could write the final draft of scripts and a single human writer is kept, losing



Dana Cloud, lecturer in human communication studies

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

the collaborative process to strengthen a story narrative.

"Studios have the right to use digital images of actors in perpetuity without their consent. The rights over one's body and image are at stake," said Cloud. "Most importantly, BIPOC and queer stories can't be generated from artificial intelligence without the cultural backgrounds of writers."

Network television reruns on public syndication used to ensure actors a certain amount of residuals or royalties, but now that is dwindling, Cloud said.

"In the era of streaming and digital content, there are no set rules for how much an actor or writer should get paid for that streaming content," Cloud said. "The actors and writers are not getting a fair deal out of that."

Cloud interviewed Brit MacRae, a series regular on the NBC Peacock show, "Departure," who shared that she recently received a residual check for two cents.

"It's not that we're asking for astronomical pay. It's to share in the profits that we helped create," MacRae said.

Cloud believes the strike will create long-term benefits for students interested in pursuing careers in cinema and television arts.

"The effects of the strike will only be positive and strengthening for students who are coming out of creative programs in the university, including writing and filmmaking," Cloud said. "What these actors and writers are doing on the streets will set the terms of employment for generations to come. Ultimately, the strike brings home the power of storytelling and its centrality to our culture."

Business

FROM PAGE 1

stitute to develop a mapping project to show Black businesses in the county.

“But because I come from the standpoint of really looking at placemaking, both historically and in the present, I was like, ‘Well, we can’t really understand where the businesses are today, and why they’re here today, and in what context they’re here unless we understand historically what had been here,’” said Pewu, who is a digital historian and previously worked at the Museum of African American history in Boston.

Pewu leads many digital humanities initiatives in the CSUF history department and is the director for the Mapping Arts OC project — a digital map of public art and underrepresented artists in Orange County.

Pewu decided to engage her students in the research project, which they called #Networked OC, to document the past, present and future of Black-owned businesses and community organizations in Orange County.

They quickly discovered that traditional methods of research don’t often apply to Black history. “When they started this project, students were used to going to the usual sources. They went to the library, to the archives, to the databases. And they kept coming back saying, ‘There’s nothing. I can’t find anything,’” Pewu said. “And that is very much the case — there isn’t much in the usual archive that tells you about Black Orange County.”

So they began collecting their own data. “We started off doing interviews with current business owners,” Pewu explained. “Then we did some historical research looking at census records. And in the spring, the 1950 census was released in full, where we could track people right down to the city block that they lived on.” They looked at the Little Texas community in Santa Ana, “the hub of Black business and Black community in that period,” Pewu said. Her students are creating a 3D map of the area to visualize what residents’ lives were like at that time.

Students also delved into oral histories taken earlier at Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Oral and Public History. “We had these loose strands of data from my predecessors in the History Department, such as Lawrence de Graaf and others, who studied Black suburbia with a particular focus on Orange County,” Pewu said. “What I try and do is take in all of those stories, and then look for the data to help us understand it,” she said.

They found that “historically, the business communities were growing out of the community organizations,” Pewu said. “And people were finding alliances and opportunities to connect socially, and then going into business, or then supporting one another’s businesses,” she said.

Black-owned businesses don’t often get venture capital funding. “They don’t get a lot of bank loans,” Pewu said. “So,

people end up funding a lot of their business from their own pockets.” This means their businesses are more vulnerable during sudden shifts in the economy, such as during the pandemic. Additionally, Black people are disproportionately unhoused and arrested in Orange County.

The Black population in Orange County is 2% of the total 3 million population, and Pewu and her students discovered many connections among the people they reached out to for interviews.

“We have a three-pronged approach to the oral history, which is interviewing Black-owned businesses, interviewing Black-serving community organizations, and interviewing longtime residents,” Pewu said.

Interviewing Black people has to be done with sensitivity, she said. “One of the things that is true of many communities of color — and OC’s Black community is no different — is that if you’re going to approach people, and you want them to tell their story, you have to have your stuff together because they’re so used to people coming in with these grand ideas, and talking about them, or to them, but not really coming alongside,” she said.

“And so, it’s just really important that our approach be different, and that we don’t create a project that is a burden to the community. We’ve taken a much slower approach to building relationships versus going really all-in just collecting data.”

Pewu said that the project also actively supports and advocates for Black businesses — some have been hired as vendors for campus events.

“This is a big deal because CSUF doesn’t currently have any Black-owned businesses on their

Arts

FROM PAGE 1

the arts for students, but the effort aligns with the university’s larger goal of building community across campus.

“The impetus was to create a sense of belonging for our students here at Cal State Fullerton,” said Arnold Holland, Dean of the College of the Arts. “We have historically been a commuter campus, but if you’ve been on campus in the last few years, certainly since the pandemic, you’ll see that we’ve tried very hard to make the campus a more welcoming environment for students just to be.”

Additionally, Holland acknowledged that faculty members oftentimes will ask students to attend an arts production or performance, and this opportunity will allow students to do so without the burden of having to pay for the experience.

“It didn’t feel like that was a good use of a student’s time to pay to have to see a performance for a class without necessarily the ability to enjoy the performance,” Holland said. “We want things to be more accessible for students, for sure, but we also want it to be a more welcoming and belonging environment.”

The College of the Arts serves more than 2,600 Titan students across 61 areas of concentration and is currently undergoing a \$65 million visual arts modernization project that will run to the fall of 2024.

The project includes the building of new spaces as well as the renovation of existing areas. Nearly 122,000 square feet of space is under construction and will feature new classrooms, offices, digital arts computer labs and an atrium space.

The effort also includes the 15,000-square-foot Nicholas and Lee Begovich Gallery, an outward-facing building design that will bring all of the College of the Arts’ gallery spaces under one roof and provide greater visibility to both the campus and the community.

“Our visual arts department, our performing arts department and the TSU (Titan Student Union) are really right in the hub of student activity on campus,” Holland said. “We want students to be able to walk by and see what’s happening inside the College of the Arts. We want everybody to know that this is no longer what somebody once described to me as, ‘the best-kept secret for arts and culture in Orange County.’ We don’t want to be a secret anymore, not to our students and not to our community.”

Students interested in attending any of the College of the Arts events can obtain one complimentary ticket per performance by preregistering through the ticketing system website or by visiting the campus box office with their student ID.

A variety of performances and exhibitions are scheduled for this fall, including a stage production by the CSUF Department of Theatre and Dance of “A Chorus Line” from Nov. 9 - Dec. 2 at the Little Theatre, as well as “Fullerton Pops!” on Nov. 4 at Meng Concert Hall, the first pops concert of its kind for the CSUF School of Music on campus.

Holland sees this opportunity as an ongoing partnership between the College of the Arts and the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and he is looking forward to seeing the impact to the Titan community as increased access to the arts will allow students to explore, collaborate and connect.

“In any given year, the College of Arts brings in tens of thousands of people from the community to see our plays, our performances and our exhibitions,” Holland said. “I’m hoping to see that number double with the inclusion of all of our students, regardless of their major here at Cal State Fullerton. This is not just for 2023 or 2024. I’m hoping this is the way forward for Cal State Fullerton for the College of the Arts.”

LGBTQ

FROM PAGE 1

Grant, which provides financial support for students experiencing financial hardships during their academic careers.

Starting out in a small room in the Student Union in October 2012, the center now occupies a much larger space in the Pollak Library and is one of six resource centers that make up the Diversity Initiatives & Resource Centers on campus.

The collaborative also includes the African American, Asian Pacific American, Latinx Community, Titan Dreams and Women’s resource centers.

While the center is a space for LGBTQ students to study, relax, congregate and enjoy fellowship, every CSUF student is

welcome to use the space, Betancourt Arellano said.

“It is very exciting to see how far we’ve come from a small room in the student union to now a thriving center in the library,” they said. “Over the years, engagement at our programs has grown and is now annually anticipated ... And we look forward to creating more valuable programming for our students.”

Losquadro said he is proud of the LGBTQ Queer Resource Center and its offerings and of how far the LGBTQ+ community has come on campus since he was a student.

“We put together a Valentine’s dance one year, and it was quite controversial,” Losquadro said. “We had around 150-plus students participate and it was a big deal, and it was wonderful to be able to dance with someone that you cared about on campus, which is where we spend so much time. To think that now they’re doing multiple events that are that size or larger all throughout the year just makes me happy.”



Jamila Moore Pewu, assistant professor of digital humanities and new media in history

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The project investigates the progress and history of Black-owned businesses in Orange County.

pre-approved vendor list,” she said. As the project continues, she said, “Our goal is to create a Black-owned sound map that integrates our current business data set with oral interviews so that people can begin to connect with businesses through the stories they tell about themselves.”



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Losquadro said that he is proud and happy to see how far the LGBTQ+ community has come since he was a student.

MEN'S SOCCER

Coach counting on team's balance, depth to make a difference

By Brian Robin,
contributing writer

George Kuntz is acutely aware of the nuances. He's conscious of what victories mean beyond the simple and immutable fact that wins and losses are what he and his program are ultimately judged by.

Kuntz is aware that certain victories, even certain victories in the early stages of what could be the best season in his nine years coaching the Cal State Fullerton men's soccer team, are more equal than others.

Beating Mercer, 6-1? Nice. Taking down Air Force, 2-1? Again, nice. Tying a ranked Washington team, 1-1, in Seattle? Well, yes, that's nice too — but hardly transcendent or attention-grabbing.

But taking down UCLA — yes, that UCLA — 4-1?

To quote Leonardo DiCaprio's Calvin Candie in "Django Unchained" on behalf of the greater collegiate soccer world, "You had my curiosity, but now you have my attention. ..."

"That was a statement win. I can tell you that UCLA is just another team, but to these guys and to the public, it was something different. It was more than that," Kuntz said. "You can beat almost anyone and there's not a blip or a word about it. But when we beat UCLA, I was getting texts and getting attention from all over the world. Everyone was texting me, and everyone was aware of it, and it was a huge spike in the awareness of our program.

"I told them that until you beat teams like this, you're not relevant. You have to be able to knock down those teams and compete with them straight up. And we did that."

These Titans are indeed relevant. They are more than a curiosity, and yes, they have the attention of the West Coast collegiate soccer world through an 8-2-2 start. That start not only includes victories over UCLA and Air Force and that gutsy tie with a 25th-ranked Washington team but wins over Loyola Marymount (1-0) and conference foes Cal State Northridge (5-4) and UC Davis (1-0).

The LMU victory came on the road against a previously undefeated Lions team. Beating CSUN also came on the road, via an offensive free-for-all that involved the Titans coming back from a 4-3 deficit via goals from Roberto Ordonez in the 77th minute and Erick Serrano's 88th-minute, right-place, right-time game-winner. Ordonez's shot was parried by CSUN goalkeeper Cooper Wenzel right to Serrano, who buried the rebound.

This would be a good time to explain one huge reason why this Titans' hot start differs from last year's hot start, when CSUF opened the season 5-2-2. The Titans couldn't sustain that start, going 0-2-2 in their last four and finishing a disappointing 3-3-3 in the Big West. Lack of goal-scoring played a huge part; the Titans failed to find the net in four of their last six games and scored only once in the other two. That came via a wave of injuries to most of CSUF's offensive talent.

And as the injuries piled up and the goals dried up, all Kuntz could do was wistfully look at the wispy figure standing near him in street clothes every game — Ordonez.

A transfer from West Texas College, Ordonez was a gem that Kuntz knew he was lucky to find. Assistant coach Irving Garcia unearthed this gem after watching him at a national community college tournament, then Kuntz worked his recruiting magic getting Ordonez to Fullerton.

All good—until Ordonez somehow injured his back during the 2022 pre-season. Test after test turned up nothing, and Kuntz said he was so frustrated the training and medical staff couldn't find the source of Ordonez's pain. Kuntz said they believed it was a pinched nerve, and an offseason of strength and core training helped get Ordonez back on the field. But nobody to this day knows what kept Ordonez picking up cones instead of picking up goals.

"He couldn't play last year, which really hurt us last year," Kuntz said. "We had a decent team, but we didn't have Roberto. Everyone would ask me, 'What happened to that guy you got from West Texas?' I'd say, 'He's over there, picking up cones like a coach.'"

"In the spring, he showed flashes of how good he could be. We knew he was excellent on set pieces: corners, free-kicks, dead balls. But his touch, his ability to hold the ball, his ability to possess the ball were things over and above anything that we thought he could do."

Now, Ordonez is making up for lost time with vengeance. That 77th-minute goal against Northridge gave him a hat trick. His assist on Serrano's game-winner gave him two assists — and eight points that night.

Scoring the lone goal in that 1-0 victory over UC Davis gave Ordonez nine goals this season. That and his 25 points lead the Big West.

They also lead the nation. "I don't think he's hit his ceiling yet," Kuntz said. "I think he has more ability than he thinks he has. He wants to get



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CSUF men's soccer coach George Kuntz

better. I've had a lot of guys go to MLS and I think he has better feet than a lot of those guys who went to MLS. I've had a lot, and he would be up there with the best, if not better."

The good news for Kuntz and the Titans is that Ordonez has regular and frequent company on the scoresheet. Ordonez is one of five Titans with multiple goals, with Sulaiman Bah (four), Mario Carlos (three), Serrano (two) and Marci Killeen (two). Five others have one.

Bah, a junior forward from Sierra Leone who claimed the California Collegiate Athletic Association record for points in a season when he played at Cal State Dominguez Hills, tallied in three consecutive games and scored the opener in a 2-0 victory over University of San Diego. Serrano — a junior midfielder and another product of the Coachella Valley pipeline opened by assistant coach and area native Enrique Cardenas — scored five points (three assists and a goal) last year.

"He's a tremendous workhorse who is coming into his own," Kuntz said. "It's like 'Who's that guy?' He's been with us two years, but playing in the shadow of (former Titan star) Sebastian Cruz. Now, he's emerged into his own person."

Along with that depth, Kuntz learned something about last season's fadeout. He realized he needed to manage his players' bodies better. That meant better

understanding of when to work them hard physically and when to back off and do more tactical and technical work. Heart monitors and distance monitors chart the work rate, and the distance players run every practice and game. Kuntz and his staff turn that information into better player management.

"We ran out of gas during league season last year. That's probably the biggest thing," he said. "Again, also having talent. We have more talent than last year. I have the ability to put in a guy where there's no drop-off. When you have guys who can run at people just like the athlete who left the field, it makes a huge difference. There's no letdown at all."

How much of a difference? Kuntz coached three Big West Tournament winners and a conference regular season champion. He's taken three Titans' teams to the NCAA Tournament and between CSUF and his previous stop at UC Irvine, entered the season with 123 victories in 10 years — the most of any coach in that time period.

And this CSUF team has already made an impact.

"I told our team this. When you're talking about Fullerton, this is one of the best groups we've had," Kuntz said. "Overall, I think it's the best group we've ever had collectively. We've had some good teams, but this one has good balance. There's depth at every position and that leads to consistency."

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