By Lou Ponsi, contributing writer

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CSUF assistant professor of nursing Austin Nation wrote, produced and performs in his one-man autobiographical stage show. PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSTIN NATION

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TITAN DANCE TEAM

The Cal State Fullerton Titan dance team celebrates its big win.

The competition was tougher in this year’s championship, with the UDA adding a preliminary round for the D1 Jazz category.

More than 30 teams competed in the first round, 20 teams advanced to the semifinal round, and then 10 teams advanced to the final round, which was won by the Titans. “It was scary going into it knowing what’s motivating us to organize and declutter

By Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

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Austin

One bucket list item he checked off was playing "Becoming Austin Nation," as a drag queen in a one-man stage show at the Long Beach Pride in May. A book and movie deal are also being discussed, he said. "I was incredibly moved by the courage, perseverance, and hope expressed by Austin Nation’s journey from rock-head to Ph.D.,” wrote Erica Tyn, Wayward Artist’s artistic director. "This story of transformation is inspirational, deeply moving, and sacred. Anyone who has ever struggled with addiction, identity, or sexuality must see this show. It leaves you feeling inspired and proud which you won’t soon forget.”

Declutter

The Search for Community. This phrase is a summation of his life in a single phrase: "Becoming Austin Nation: From Crack to PhD: A Drag Queen’s Story." Austin Nation has now performed "Becoming Austin Nation" about 15 times, most recently at the Brea Curtis Theater, the Kraine Theater in New York City, and a virtual performance at the Long Beach Pride in May.

Austin Nation assumes his drag queen persona, "Afreeca Nation," which he created during a breakout session at the Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Latino Health and Culture. He is preparing to perform "Afreeca Nation" in Scotland. Austin is also preparing to apply for the show at the Long Beach Pride in May. A book and movie deal are also being discussed, he said. "I was incredibly moved by the courage, perseverance, and hope expressed by Austin Nation’s journey from rock-head to Ph.D.,” wrote Erica Tyn, Wayward Artist’s artistic director. "This story of transformation is inspirational, deeply moving, and sacred. Anyone who has ever struggled with addiction, identity, or sexuality must see this show. It leaves you feeling inspired and proud which you won’t soon forget.”

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Alum's amphibian and reptile research recognized University hosts Little Saigon engagement day

**VISION & VISIONARIES**

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...in federal programs

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER » OCREGISTER.COM**

ability college option for her family. She

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...Distinguished Alumni award

...Alumni on Feb. 24 as the 2024 CSUF Vision & Visionaries Award recipi-

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Dinner with the Titans honors 2004 College World Champions

The Titan Baseball community came together to cel-
brate the storied 2004 College World Championship
team at the annual Dinner with the Titans fundraiser
19 event included former players and coaches from the
championship team along with current players, do-
nor, donors, fans. More than $170,000 was raised
for the baseball program.

Under former head coach George Horton, the 2004
Titan team won its fourth College World Series title.
The talented lineup featured Justin Turner, who went on to
an MLB career with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the
Boston Red Sox, and Kurt Suzuki, who played 16 years
in the majors.
Stern at work as interim dean of Humanities and Social Sciences

Jessica Yirush Stern, a historian of early America and former chair of the Department of History, has been appointed by President Sylvia Alva to serve as interim dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences effective until a national search has concluded by July 1. Her appointment is effective immediately. Stern succeeds by being part of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ Emerging Leaders Program. She worked with faculty and staff advisers to analyze the college’s lecture series with topics focusing on current events. Stern believes the college can serve the campus community by using the humanities and social sciences to help students, faculty and staff understand the world around them and to model civic engagement.

Stern’s goals for the college include strengthening the college’s academic-access population, including strengthening the college’s tandem advising model in which each department has at least one staff adviser who works closely with faculty advisers to guide students through their college careers. Stern also would like to develop a curriculum on Native American and Indigenous studies and especially being a part of the program before, I really felt like it made it feel like home.”

It was an incredible opportunity, said junior co-captain Carissa Hobbs. “Normally we do it twice. But honestly, we were going to do it three times,” senior co-captain Jordan Takai said. “I just love each other, and it’s like a family here,” Hobbs said. “So that’s why I was coming back.”

The Titans Dance Team will be performing its routines three times at the championships. The Titans are also active in the community, reading to children in local elementary schools and participating in toy drives during the holiday season.

Dance

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

FROM PAGE 1

Photography by John B. Hays

The Titans Dance Team will be performing its routines at the following upcoming Titans Basketball games:

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The 2023-24 CSUF dance team had the largest pool of Titan fans we've ever seen.

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PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

Kelsie Whitmore: Blazing trails, changing perceptions

By Brian Robbins, contributing writer

You can see Kelsie Whitmore’s memo-
ral blisters in this little town in central New York, Cooperstown, where two of Whit-
more’s teammates included former major leaguer, which explains why Whit-
more is no threat to blow away hitters with her fastball. But this … this is
what drives her. It’s what she’s always wanted to be, where she is. It’s who
she is. It’s what she’s always wanted to do since she was a little girl going to
the baseball part of it, at least. A determined, assurance that this experi-
ever forget. To the outside eye, to those who
Don’t go for things. Sometimes, it
takes someone to just go for it, even
even if you’ve got Hall of Fame real-
even in independent ball — which is
and make the plays and throw the

The whole big part of it is the sim-

ting Whitmore to her happy place — a

The #CSUF softball team last weekend. Whit-
more was playing six years for the CSUF softball team — where she was the 2014 Women’s College World Series Los Angeles Regional. Whit-
more discovered while “messing around with some other pitches.”

But that’s not the story. The num-
er free agents trying to catch on with

“Before games, my heart would be

Not with a football topping out at around 80 mph, but with a softball topping out at around 70 mph, the story is another one that is natural. It just happened. And that’s

“When Whitmore was 16 years old, she made her professional debut with the Sonoma Stompers in the independent Pacific Association in 2016. To

This is why she had to regretta-

“Before games, my heart would be

A still-bewildered Whitmore said about

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