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By Lou Ponsi, contributing writer

TITAN OF EMPOWERMENT

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By Lou Ponsi, contributing writer

INNOVATION

ARBORETUM’S NEW NAME REFLECTS ITS MISSION AS A LIVING LABORATORY

Opportunities for hands-on learning

By Jennifer Nuzzo, contributing writer

The 26-acre, world-class arboretum on the campus of Cal State Fullerton recently received a new name to more accurately align with its mission and focus.

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton aims to support the academic mission of CSUF by serving as a living laboratory for Titans from across the university’s eight colleges. With a focus on education, research and conservation, the CSUF-owned arboretum provides unique opportunities for students and faculty in a one-of-a-kind setting.

“We work with all of the colleges here,” said Arboretum director Greg Dyment. “Whether they be engineering, the arts, natural sciences, you name the college, there are classes that meet out here.”

Formerly an orange grove at the north end of CSUF’s campus that had succumbed to disease and was originally slated to become a parking lot, the concept to convert the land into an arboretum originated in 1970 from Titan faculty and students. With the backing of fundraising and community support, the idea was brought to life when the Fullerton Arboretum opened in October 1979.

In December 2020, the Arboretum transitioned from its 40-year Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Fullerton to university governance as a fully integrated department within CSUF’s Extension and International Programs.

Today, Titan students can be seen on the Arboretum grounds in a variety of capacities, such as discovering methods to generate electricity through wind turbines, researching ways to direct and collect water during rain events or installing artwork exhibits for the public to view.

The Arboretum also hosts the Engaging Environmental Experiences (E3) Internship program, a pathway for CSUF students to receive hands-on opportunities to train in the areas of science, conservation and environmental education through real-world projects while under the mentorship of Arboretum staff members.

“We take very seriously this place, this Arboretum, being the lab for all the students,” said Arboretum director Greg Dyment.

WHERE TO TURN IN TRYING TIMES?

Punk rock — specifically, the punk spirit of uplifting and empowering marginalized communities at a time when society at large seems to be spiraling out of control. That’s the thinking behind “PunkCon,” an all-day event May 4 at Cal State Fullerton that is free and open to the public and will feature a blend of academic panels, poster and multimedia presentations, vendors, bands, drag shows, workshops, roundtables, and activism.

By Greg Hardesty, contributing writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

California poppies bloom at the Arboretum and Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLÉN RÍOS-HERNÁNDEZ

Marlen Rios-Hernández, assistant professor of Chicana and Chicano studies at Cal State Fullerton.
The transformative power of role models

...publications, we try to keep the message simple and clear: Be kind, thoughtful and powerful; that is how we behave as role models when you are navigating uncharted waters. Representative matters.

She help me see that leaders can be kind, thoughtful and powerful, that effective leaders can be female, equity-minded, and that we can find the principles of social justice and equity in the ideas of punk rock.

Standing for something

Josie Wreck is a transgender Xicana punk singer-songwriter, who has been performing on the local music scene for nearly two decades. She describes her sound as chaotic Western punk.

"I'm excited to be part of this, especially since it is the first time I have been a part of PunkCon," Wreck said. "It's been my pleasure to be part of the community and to have people recognize the power of punk."
Eric Hanson is the new dean of the Cal State Fullerton Pollak Library.

By Larry Urish, contributing writer

Eric Hanson is the new dean of the Cal State Fullerton Pollak Library. Hanson appears to be well-qualified to oversee an information hub that serves the largest student body in the California State University system.

Hanson brings years of administration to the library, having served in college libraries, along with a terminal experience and cultural significance to that community. He is a native of Orange County and events of his American studies.

The online archive itself furnishes articles that provide a sense of community and belonging. Hanson has served a historical treasure trove of data points ripe for electronic picking.

For example, the library is the repository of approximately 12,000 items, ranging from personal letters to the community well,” said Amir Dabirian, former dean of the Oceanside campus and current provost and vice president for academic affairs in a Nov. 29, 2023, article on the CSUF website. “I am thrilled we have the opportunity to welcome him to Cal State Fullerton.”

The Pollak Library is made up of two interconnected buildings, Pollak Library 1 and Pollak Library 2.

Before moving into its new building in 1907, the fourth permanent building on campus, the library was located in a small temporary structure.

The library expanded in 1999 with the opening of a second building, Library North. In 1991, the library was renamed The Paulina Jones and George Pollak Library in recognition of the $1 million donation from Professor Paulina Jones Sta-Pollak and her husband, George Pollak.

At the time, the gift was the largest ever from a faculty member. Contact: Eric Hanson, dean of the Pol- lak Library.
A new study by Cal State Fullerton researchers shows evidence of two epic floods that occurred within the past 500 years in Southern California during the Little Ice Age, the period from about 1450 to 1600.

Their research, the first-ever, land-based, flood-event evidence from that period — a documented time of above-average southern California precipitation — provides hands-on communications experience.

For their study, the faculty researchers hope to use these flood event histories in the future to better understand the extent of past flooding in Southern California, thus our collaboration with the Southern California Earthquake Center and the University of Southern California's Center for Geophysical Fluid Dynamics.

"Scientists have very little about California's flood history older than the historical record of the past 150 years," said Kirby, who studies Earth's climate history. "This research provides critical baseline information to prepare for future floods through understanding flood histories."

The study was published in the Journal of Paleolimnology, a multidisciplinary journal that focuses on the reconstruction and interpretation of lake histories.

Co-authors are Cal State geological sciences faculty members Joe Carlin, Nicole Boschman and Brian Atkin; Alumni Dylan E службы, who earned bachelor's degree in biological sciences and evolutionary ecology in 2015; Nirav Novich, who earned a bachelor's degree in geosciences in 2022; and Sam N. Martin, a CSULB doctoral student.

The research was funded by the Southern California Earthquake Center and the National Science Foundation, and a federal fund program to increase the number of competitively awarded, full-time, underwriting students in STEM majors. Wili and Brian Atkin, both of CSUF, also received research summer program for students at CSUF that allowed them to work on the project.

For more information, contact the scientific researchers at

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Jason Shepard, chair and professor of communications

There was only one career path Jason Shepard ever saw himself taking — journalism — and that's what he did, as a journalist, said Shepard. "I loved that journalism was an opportunity to learn more about the world, other people and how decisions are made."

Not only did Shepard fulfill his goal of becoming an award-winning reporter — covering crime, courts, politics, education and media for 30 years — he also found a new passion in teaching and research that led him to CSU Fullerton.

The chair and professor of communications is now a media law and First Amendment expert whose academic scholarship looks at a variety of tricky topics, including legal protections for journalists, ethics and the regulation of social media.

Throughout his career, Shepard has contributed his expertise to more than 250 publications and presentations. In addition to his work as a journalist, he has also written in the academic journals like the Yale Journal of Law and Ethics, California Law and Policy, and Journal of Media Law and Policy.

He has also been tapped as an expert witness in multiple court cases, and he was recently invited to attend oral arguments for two First Amendment cases at the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C. Those cases, No. 20-570, are on appeal.

"I learned the hard way that journalists don't always have strong legal protections when it comes to court subpoenas," said Shepard, who turned this experience into an open research interest and the basis for his first book, "Prisoning the Press."

Since Shepard started his teaching and studying freedom of the speech, the narrative in communications has shifted significantly which has in turn evolved his research areas. For example, he has written about social media, the digital divide, the role of social media in the 2020 election, and the impact it has on a democratic society that is so reliant on social media for news and information.

Shep purchased a few books for the collection and put the old one on display. He could not believe how much his life had changed in just a few short months. He was now looking forward to the next phase of his life and all the things he was going to do.
Collage and all the students here at CSUF Fullerton," said Bryen, who has been teaching at the university for more than 37 years. Since the inception of the recreation mission, the Arboretum also serves the broader Southern California community with educational programs, such as the botanical garden and the various museums. These programs have been expanded and improved over time, especially with the hire of new staff and the development of new educational initiatives.

"People can come here, learn out here, recreate out here," Bryen said. "We're focused on making sure that people have a great experience here, and we're looking to broaden our reach." Visitors can enjoy a unique experience at the Arboretum, where they can explore the various educational programs and exhibitions. The Arboretum also hosts several community events throughout the year to celebrate the beauty of the facility's landscaping.

**Upcoming events**

The Arboretum also hosts several community events throughout the year to celebrate the beauty of the facility's landscaping. These events range from free public events to more specialized programs for specific audiences.

**Spring**

- **April 14 – May 12 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** and **April 18 – May 12 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** will be open from noon – 4 p.m. on the Orchard Lawn. This event is entirely planned and executed by CSUF students. It features 18 colorful and whimsical environmental art installations in the Arboretum's Garden. And "Graphic Environments" will feature 18 colorful and whimsical environmental art installations in the Arboretum's Garden.

- **April 20 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.** can purchase a wide variety of vegetable seedlings, all grown in the Arboretum nursery. California native plants and other SoCal climate-friendly plants will be available for sale as well. Additional monthly plant sales this spring will be held on May 6 and June 3. Artists can enjoy two different exhibits this spring. "Symposium" will run April 12 – May 12 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. and will feature colorful and whimsical environmental art installations in the Arboretum's Garden. And "Graphic Environments" will feature 18 colorful and whimsical environmental art installations in the Arboretum's Garden.
Coach marvels at mental toughness of his men's golf team

By Brian Robins, contributing writer

Mental toughness is an obsession with Jason Drotter, one of those intangibles—yet essential—elements that come down to certain traits that every single person has plus players deal with on any round of golf they play. In this case, however, it’s the flip side of your garden-variety muck, like cuts or waste areas. Lacking this necessary occupational hazard as Drotter’s mind is occupational hazard. And yet, the Cal State Fullerton director of golf and head men’s golf coach may have found a team more obsessed with the between-the-ear game than even he is.

“My team has a team that’s tougher mentally, and I’m on that,” he said. “The first conference championship team I had was mentally tough, but I hadn’t had a team that, up until now, has been that tough. These guys may be too tough for their own good—and I say that as a compliment.”

“They’re on being nine, 10 shots better from start to finish than should be a lot of pressure on our conditions. But what more can I ask for? I coached a coach like me in a bag, and a coach who loves the way they love that adversity? They love being down and they love being up—special watching it.”

It’s late March, and already the Titans have enjoyed many special moments that have sent their coach’s blood pressure into medication levels. If they weren’t coming from 11 shots back en route to the final round at the Grand Canyon Invitational, they wouldn’t be in exactly the spot they are in the final round at the Wyoming World Match Play at Inland Dunes Golf Links to win that event for the third consecutive time. And a month after winning the County Collegiate Classic at Monarch Beach Golf Links to win that event for the third consecutive time. And a month later, when they entered the Desert Intercollegiate at Palm Desert’s Classic Club.

So far this season, the Titans shot 10-under par in that final round to win that event. The following week, they’d shoot 12-under par at the Cal State Northridge Bill Collum Invitational in October.

They’d do it again. And again. And again. And the Titans had the field exactly where they wanted it. Naturally, that victory came with its share of mental moments.

This is why Drotter doesn’t mind the blood-pressure spikes, because let’s be honest, they’re in his own zone watching the Titans enforce their ways. The match-and-golf victory at Grand Canyon was the Titans’ third victory in the last four spring tournaments and their fourth this season, counting a fall victory at Cal State Northridge’s Bill Collum Invitational in October. That tournament came with its own final-round prestige. The Titans were in fifth place after the second round on a different Saturday Country Club course, which established this season’s trend of final-round switch-flipping. They rode Trevor McNary’s 68, Garrett Boe’s 68 and Russell Howlett’s 67 to a three-shot victory and a six-shot victory. The Titans erupted with a career-best 6-under 66. Drotter said the four of them are the Titans’ leaders. Drotter said the four of them are the Titans’ leaders, top-of-the-pack players, the guys that the Titans can’t measure, and it’s necessary at a medalist level that you can’t measure, and you’ve shown that,” Drotter said.

“Both of them are for him. Which one? The switch-flip is a pretty common occurrence, but there they were collegiate golfers, such is the trend of final-round switch-flipping. They rode Trevor McNary’s 68, Garrett Boe’s 68 and Russell Howlett’s 67 to a three-shot victory and a six-shot victory. The Titans erupted with a career-best 6-under 66.

Drotter’s 12 seasons that a CSUF player has won a playoff against Cal State San Bernardino, the Titans had the field exactly where they wanted it. Naturally, that victory came with its share of mental moments. Andrews won last October’s Visit StudentFirst Invitational with an exclamation-point, final-round 63 that tied Boe’s program-record round and vaulted him Big West Golfer of the Month. He also added conference Golfer of the Month honors after winning the Wyoming World Match Play at Inland Dunes Golf Links to win that event for the third consecutive time.

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