Ming-Wen Chen foresees collaboration in advancing regional role.

Ronald S. Rochon assumes his role as president of Cal State Fullerton.

The celebrated chef and architect of the gourmet food truck movement was awarded an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree for his accomplishments in the culinary world, which he learned from an early age.

Choi, who graduated from CSUF in 1994 with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, was the commencement speaker for the graduation ceremonies, which were held May 22 in Titan Stadium.

I want to lead with kindness, love and generosity. I want to lead with the choices that you make in the business of this world. And I want to lead with the choices that you make in the business of this world.

And I started to figure out who I was. And I started to stand up for things, and all those things became the building blocks that happened here on this campus. Those things became the building blocks of eventually who I had become in life and the things that we try to put out into the universe.

By Nicole Gregory, contributing writer

Last month, 35 students who participated in Project Rebound at Cal State Fullerton graduated — a number higher than any other year since the program began on the campus in 2016.

Project Rebound helps people who come out of prison earn college degrees and take their next steps toward a career or further education.

Photo courtesy of CSUF News Media Services

PHOTO COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

By Wenda Fong, left, immediate past chair of the California State University Board of Trustees, and CSUF President Sylvia A. R. Rochon.

By Lou Ponsi, contributing writer

Ronald S. Rochon assumes his role as president of Cal State Fullerton.

The California State University board of trustees has appointed Ronald S. Rochon president of Cal State Fullerton. Rochon currently serves as president of the University of Southern Indiana.

I am honored to join the Titan community and excited to work alongside the university’s talented faculty and staff to further support the success of its diverse and dynamic student body,” said Rochon. “I look forward to collaborating on strategies that will continue to strengthen Cal State Fullerton’s position as an intellectual and cultural catalyst in Southern California and advance its key role in workforce and economic development for the region.”

Choi is the host of the Emmy award-winning series “Broken Bread” which centers around using food as a vehicle for change.

I did not want to be here,” he said. “I did not want to do much at all. I would spend a lot of time alone, walking through this arboretum, hanging out on the top floor of the Humanities building, eating my lunch, just walking with an angry face throughout campus.”

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Dedicated to others: Bhasera named Outstanding Senior

Psych major always ready to help people

By Larry Urish, contributing writer

Joshua Bhasera learned to embrace ubuntu at an early age, and the concept underscores much of who he is and what he does. Thanks to his generosity – along with his dogged determination and academic accomplishments – not only was the Zimbabwean native deemed this year’s Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Psychology, but CSUF also granted Bhasera the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Senior Award, further honoring him by selecting him as a speaker at one of last month’s commencement ceremonies.

Then again, Bhasera has been honing the university since the moment he first stepped onto the campus in 2022. While carrying a full academic load, he repeatedly identifies the university’s control. All editorial decisions are independent of the university’s control.

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Anaheim, CA 92806

socregister.com/cal-state-fullerton

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CSUF NEWS MEDIA SERVICES

The word “ubuntu” refers to an African value system that stresses the intimate relationship between individuals and their social and physical surroundings. Often translated as “I am because we are,” it serves as a reminder that people are continually shaped by their connection with others.

“Imagine being so young and on your own, in a completely different culture and country, away from anybody you know,” Mori said. “That’s even more astonishing in his fortitude and morality to persevere and achieve so much under those circumstances.”

Prior to starting at CSUF, Bhasera worked at an adolescent substance abuse inpatient facility. It’s no surprise that he decided to focus on clinical psychology, given his caring nature.

“Studying psychology is an extension of my overarching purpose to serve others,” he said. “It allowed me to help others who were in need of help because of adverse childhood experiences, mental health issues, or all sorts of other problems.”

Dedicated to others, Bhasera named Outstanding Senior

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AWARD

Joshua Bhasera celebrates graduation with, from left, master’s clinical psychology graduate Emily Orozco, master’s psychology student Sherry Guler, and bachelor’s psychology graduate Katie Yercick.
Communications students getting a front-row seat at Paris Olympics

“...I think it shows what Cal State Fullerton is all about and that their goal is achievable … and I think our students just really go for it.”

In sports right now, with the additions of Cal State Fullerton and conference and ESPN+, will make CSUF a more attractive destination for the sports media industry and really changing cultural experience for students going abroad is just such an amazing, life-changing experience to really provide some inspiration for them just to go for it really good.”

CSUF Department of Communications assistant professor Gayle Jansen Brisbane with Robbie Loya.
CHEERS TO THE CLASS OF 2024

CSUF BY THE NUMBERS
Cal State Fullerton commencement ceremonies were held May 20–23.

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*Eligible students qualified to walk at commencement; however, they may decide to opt out of the ceremonies.

Photos by Drew A. Kelley, Contributing Photographer Tuesday, May 21, 2024

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2. Bri Felipe sends a smile to the audience during CSUF’s commencement ceremony.
3. Laura Solorzano and her service dog walk the grass after receiving her degree.
4. A graduate’s customized mortarboard sends a message to her family.
5. George Rico celebrates during CSUF’s commencement ceremony on May 21.
6. Vanessa Lopez sends her boyfriend a heart during CSUF’s commencement ceremony at Titan Stadium.
7. Magna cum laude graduates celebrate during CSUF’s commencement ceremony.
8. Devin Engle poses for a photograph during CSUF’s commencement ceremony at Titan Stadium.
9. Proud families cheer their graduates.
10. Center, wearing leis, Noelia Chavez, left, and Marlene Lopez wave to their family during CSUF’s commencement ceremony at Titan Stadium.
11. Hannah Alva, left, and Alfonso Fajardo acknowledge their supporters.
12. Caitlin Barrington, right, helps Ada Aryan with her cap ahead of the start of the event.
13. Emelia Dewe, left, gestures to her family.

GRADUATION

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The program began in 1987 at San Francisco State, an institution that inspired many incarcerated men and women to believe that they could achieve something in life and their commitment to giving back. "Our recidivism rate to this day still remains below one," said Noah Bijelic, who enrolled in Project Rebound in 2021. "I've brought attention when you compare it to and other educational materials, and emotional support through counseling, peer support groups," he said, naming the support received from Project Rebound while at Cal State Fullerton.

"These connections opened doors to internships and job opportunities and were so valuable," said Joshua Bijelic, who enrolled in Project Rebound in 2021. "I've brought attention when you compare it to and other educational materials, and emotional support through counseling, peer support groups," he said, naming the support received from Project Rebound while at Cal State Fullerton.

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Recapping the Titans’ outstanding moments in 2023–24

By Brian Robin,
contributing writer

There came redemption in two sports, radar diagram with continued excellence. Spreading of continued excellence. There was more of that sprinkle about as you look back on the 2023–24 Cal State Fullerton athletic season, you’ll find breakout performance teams that arrived with the arrival of new stars — interspersed with the return of some former sports fans recognize on sight. Megan Delgadillo and Team Andrews, welcome back to prominence.

Roberto Ordonez, Darina Xanh, Abel Jordan, Zone Deecheen, welcome to the big stage. One you illustrated wasn’t too big for you. The Titans won conference titles in men’s soccer, women’s soccer and softball. They were runners-up in men’s golf and both indoor and outdoor men’s track and field. Individually, the haul was more impressive. Andrews (men’s golf), Jordan (men’s 100 meters), Trinity Barnett (women’s 400-meter hurdles) and the men’s 4-by-100-meter relay team all claimed conference titles.

And the CSUF Dance Team returned to a familiar spot atop the pyramid, winning its CDA National Championship for the 18th time. It was the program’s second Division 1 last title in three years. These are moments worth revisiting. Moments like those from the just-ended 2022-23 season.

Remarkable Roberto

Even from the rear of the Big West, he would learn, much to their detriment. CSUF men’s soccer coach George Kuntz knew what kind of player Roberto Ordonez was. He knew what kind of player Roberto Ordonez was. The quick feet, the instincts...

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