

Custodian revives sculpture

By **Fernanda Martinez**
Editor-in-Chief

Last week, an unsung member of the custodial staff at CSU Bakersfield received recognition for renovating an area on campus and revealing a hidden treasure.

In 2010, CSUB had a one-of-a-kind sculpture installed on its grounds. It was a 25-foot-tall dragon tail that spiraled and was made out of branches and rebar. The sculpture was created by Korean artist Byoung-Tak Mun, who was invited to CSUB to create and install his sculpture with the help of art students.

Mun spent two weeks on campus building the dragon tail and it was later placed in the pond located on the west side of campus. The Humanities Office Building now stands next to the pond with the sculpture.

The dragon tail was to represent Korean mythology and nature. The sculpture that CSUB has was Mun's final sculpture of nine that were placed in different countries around the world and the only one in the United States.

In recent years, the pond was drained during the drought and the area surrounding it became neglected. The dragon tail soon was buried by a wall of tall weeds and grass.

CSUB custodian, Joseph Mendez, who has been working on campus for 26 years, noticed the poor condition of the pond and decided to do something about it.

"I would hate to know that this artist came back to Bakersfield, in our campus and saw that his work was not taken care of," said Mendez.

As a custodian, Mendez's job only requires him to do cleaning services for offices, classrooms, and public areas on campus. He was not able to work on renovating the pond while on the job. So he decided to volunteer his time to bring it back to life.

"One of the things I knew that I could not do is work in another unit during work hours so what I did was work in the weekends so that I wouldn't conflict with other units and what they did," said Mendez.

According to Mendez, he received a lot of attention for doing a job that was outside of what was required of him. He went to his union and asked if there was anything that he could do

that would allow him to continue his project. Mendez said he was given a volunteer form.

CSUB currently has a program called Campus Beautification that is dedicated to "beautify" the campus and is overseen by Dr. Thomas Wallace, vice president of student affairs.

Wallace explained that one of the first things he noticed when he first arrived to CSUB was its beautiful campus, but litter was lying all over.

"I put a call out for people to come and talk about what we could do as a campus to keep the campus clean and beautiful," said Wallace. That was when they created a committee that would dedicate time to keep the campus clean and beautiful.

Part of the work done within the committee are the monthly campus clean ups.

"We have individuals that come from every department, faculty, staff, and students. Athletics [has] taken it a step further," said Wallace. "They send a different team every time that we do campus clean up."

Wallace said that the campus is divided into zones that can be adopted by a group on campus to keep the area clean. "That's what Joseph and his crew did as many others have done in our campus. They identify an area and that's their zone and they are to keep that zone clean and beautiful," said Wallace.

When Mendez adopted the area on Dec. 10, 2018, he was unsure about what the guidelines were. He said he looked at the areas that were neglected and began doing what he thought would beautify the area.

"I started trimming the trees, getting rid of the wall and the vines, and then I found out that all I had to do was pick up trash," said Mendez.

Regardless of what the guidelines for adopting an area were, Mendez said he wanted to do the extra work.

"I liked doing that and the comments that I got from various people all across the campus as far away as athletics were nothing but good things," said Mendez. "That excited me and I thought, well what if I could bring it back to its former glory? I only worked on it five hours out of the weekend. It was not a problem to do it."



Fernanda Martinez/The Runner

After Joseph Mendez cleaned the area surrounding the pond, the sculpture of the dragon tail is easily visible.

Mendez received recognition along with the rest of the custodial department from Dr. Wallace and CSUB President Lynnette Zelezny on Feb. 7.

"There's a subcommittee of the campus beautification team that goes out and looks at the whole campus and then they will identify an area that is the cleanest of the areas that they have seen on campus," said Wallace.

This month, Mendez's adopted area received the recognition.

"The reason this is such an important celebration is that one of our key values of CSUB is sustainability and beautification," said Zelezny. "I'm really proud that [CSUB is] one of two colleges in the nation that is a Keep America Beautiful [affiliate] so this is a huge accolade on our value related to CSUB and sustainability and beautification."

Mendez mentioned that even though he did the work on his own, he did not want to leave his department out of the recognition.

"One person can spark the desire in other people to do better, and it just takes a spark to create a fire. And this is what I'm role modeling," said Mendez.

Mendez said that he sees potential for more renovations around the pond. While volunteering his time to renovate it, Mendez collected 133 bags of trash and debris and took seven trips to the dumpster. He said he has noticed



Fernanda Martinez/The Runner

Mendez and the custodial staff receive the award from President Zelezny on Feb. 7, 2018.

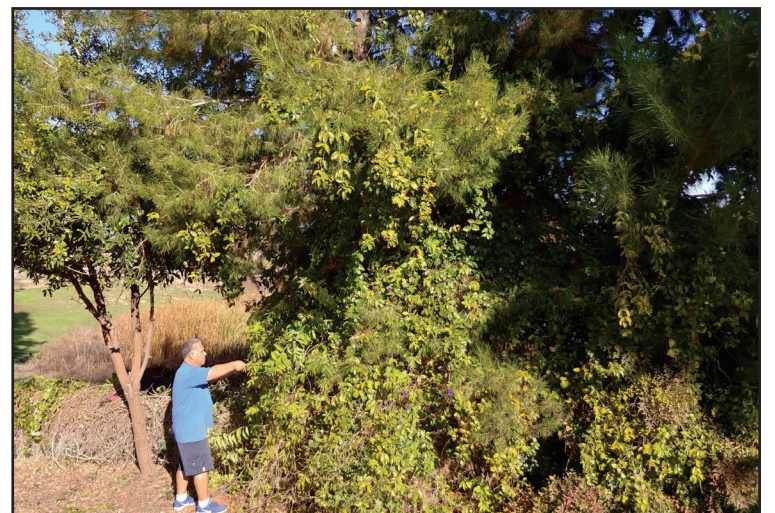


Photo courtesy of Joseph Mendez

Mendez cuts the weeds and grass formed around the pond.

people and wildlife being attracted to the area.

"I do this because I love the university. The university is good to me," said Mendez. "The students, the faculty, they all treat

me nice. So why not give back while you're here so that other people can enjoy the goodness that you can give?"

CSUB veterans travel the states

Ivette Nolasco
Reporter

CSU Bakersfield veteran students Ulyses Rodriguez, Raymundo Perez Arellano, Yessenia Mendoza and Juan P. De La Torre decided to turn an opportunity of attending the Student Veterans of America Conference in Orlando, Florida into a memorable lifetime experience. Earlier this year, the group drove on a journey that took them through 26 states and kept them on the road for an unforgettable 10 day adventure.

“We wanted to have as many of our student veterans attend the conference, so we started looking into prices of plane tickets and hotels but noticed that it was kind of costly,” Perez Arellano said. The idea to drive directly to the conference and share driving responsibilities enabled all four veterans to attend the conference.

Although the students were concerned about driving such a long distance in potentially bad weather for multiple days, they were motivated and determined. Representing CSUB for the first time at this important event was their primary goal.

“The SVA conference is about taking student veterans and in-



CSUB student veterans (from left to right) Ulyses Rodriguez, Juan P. De La Torre, Yessenia Mendoza, and Raymundo Perez Arellano attend the Student Veterans of America Conference in Orlando, Florida from Jan. 3 to 5.

spiring them, teaching them and showing them that they can also be leaders in their schools and their communities,” said De La Torre. “It’s a process that really shows you the importance of lifelong learning.”

The student veterans felt the SVA Conference was very informational, relevant and inspiring.

“The conference was really good in the sense that it motivated us to come back with what we learned and gave us ideas on how to improve the Veterans Center, the Veterans Department and the Veterans Club,” Rodriguez said. “We already have a great veterans program here at CSUB, but we realized that there is so

much more we can do and that is what we are most excited about. We learned a lot and got a lot of good ideas. Now it’s just time to make it happen.”

At the conference in Orlando, the student veterans met national leaders and shared their experiences with other student veterans. After the SVA Confer-

ence the students decided to take “the long way home” through numerous states before returning to Bakersfield.

During their 8,000 mile drive they saw many destinations they liked, including spending one night in New York City. When asked what part of the journey they enjoyed the most, they agreed Washington D.C. was one the most remarkable places of all the 26 states they visited. The group agreed it was interesting to think that many important decisions that affect our country are made there.

When the team was asked if they shared driving responsibilities they said yes. Mendoza even added that her nickname was “Speedy Gonzalez.”

“I [always liked] the good shifts where there were straight aways where I would go like 85 when the speed limit was 80,” said Mendoza.

The team concluded that their trip was enjoyable, cost effective and an adventure of a lifetime. They said that the long drive and experience in Orlando created a very special bond for all. The team effort the group experienced was so great they said that they are already planning other road trips together.

Consent club raises sexual assault awareness

Violeta Trujillo
Reporter

Consent is crucial, especially at universities where rape culture is prominent.

At CSU Bakersfield, a club has taken initiative to educate campus community on sexual consent in hope to eliminate rape culture on campus.

According to Bustle.com, in a 2015 poll from The Washington Post, 18 percent of college students thought someone had consented as long as they didn’t say no.

Additionally, in the same survey, 22 percent of college students said if someone engages in foreplay such as kissing, they are consenting to further sexual

activity. The Consent Project is a club at CSUB that is focused on advocating awareness on sexual violence and assault, by focusing on primary prevention.

The club is supported by the Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, a nonprofit organization dedicated to stop domestic violence and sexual assault in Kern County and assist survivors.

Adrian Aguirre, club president of the consent project and senior majoring in criminal justice said, “Our overall mission is to bring awareness to community and students about sexual assault.”

Alee Gonzalez, an intern at AAFVSA and a member of the club said, “We want to focus on

primary prevention.” Last semester, the club went to a health class at South High School, where they talked to high school students about safe relationships, red flags in relationships, and sources available to reach out to in case anything arises.

The club also visited Independence and Stockdale High School, where they partook in tabling and gave students information and resources on sexual assault.

In April 2018, the consent project launched a lecture on consent and sexual assault for the Greek community on campus.

At this time, the familiarized “Me too” phrase about sexual assault was becoming a move-

ment. The purpose for the club’s community events are to provide information about the several types of assaults and prevention methods that go along with them.

“It can happen by tackling small issues at a time,” said Gonzalez.

Club members are also raising concerns of women and their lives after an attack. Amidst the recent fondling incident on a female student at CSUB in parking lot D, the campus community is being advised to take extra precautions.

Desiree Sams, co-advisor of the consent project said, “Women feel they have to be on watch.”

Club members are raising concerns on women and their lives, after an attack.

“It starts with bringing aware-

ness about sexual consent,” said Sams.

By raising awareness to sexual assault and addressing the importance of establishing consent, the club hopes to bring comfort to local victims and others who have been assaulted or raped.

This semester, the consent project club will be hosting campus events themed around sexual assault and consent for all to attend.

The group plans to have a public screening of the 2015 documentary, *The Hunting Ground*, which shares different types of sexual assault incidents from young college students.

This spring, the club will meet every Monday from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union.

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Student author offers lit advice

By Sam Underwood
Reporter

Rebecca St. Croix Martinez spoke at the second annual Author Showcase and told a story about her childhood, that she would get in trouble for daydreaming in class. Her teachers would send home notes saying she was daydreaming too much, or not paying attention.

Today, Martinez got to respond to all those teachers, as she holds up her book. “To all those teachers, in your face,” she said.

The Walter Stiern Library hosted the Author Showcase on Tuesday, Feb. 5. This showcase gave six faculty and staff members from CSUB an opportunity to talk about their books, to share with the community.

Authors featured in the Dezember Reading Room also included Dayanand Saini, Hager El Hadidi, Stephen Allen, Mark Novak, Stafford Betty, Hossein Bidgoli, and Martinez.

Martinez spoke last but her voice was heard. She talked about how anyone who writes can publish their own e-books online and find some success as she did.

Martinez, who writes under the pen

name, Rebecca St. Croix, has been working at CSUB for 17 years as an administrative coordinator for the Arts and Humanities department. Since 2014 she has been the social media specialist, overseeing posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, as well she posts to the arts and humanities blog.

After attending Bakersfield College for four years, Martinez transferred to CSUB. She has been taking classes at CSUB the last three years and continues to work towards her bachelor’s degree in studio art. It was in an art class that utilized Photoshop, where she developed a newfound interest in creating children’s literature.

Martinez has created many characters such as Rocket Roy, or Boris the Bear, but her recurring main character is Burt the Bunny. In the beginning she was self-publishing her books in kindle format, when suddenly something unexpected happened.

“One day, all of a sudden I started getting royalty checks deposited into my account, and there were an awful lot of them, I thought something got screwed up,” said Martinez.

What had happened was that one of her books had found some success in Japan.

Martinez attributed her achievement to the more adventurous tales that Burt the Bunny was going on.

Martinez’s books are currently written to appeal to infants and toddlers ages four to five.

However, she has been getting requests for books more appropriate for elementary school grades.

The next book Martinez is working on will have Burt the Bunny going on a pirate adventure to Carrot Island.

At the showcase, Martinez got to meet with some students that want to publish graphic novels and books of poetry.

The other authors spent some time at the podium giving some background on their books and giving insight into their process.

The experience of listening to them was invaluable to anyone who is starting out as a writer.

Bigdoli made an emotional connection with his books. He joked that “My books are like my children,” he said.

Then ended his talk as he said, “Now I have 69 little children running around.”

Novak spoke about the level of commitment in writing a book, and mentioned that his book, “Issues in Aging,” included



Leo Garcia/The Runner

Rebecca St. Croix Martinez showcases her children’s book, “Rocket Baby & Burt The Bunny,” on Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the Dezember Reading Room.

over one hundred pages of sources.

Hadidi spoke passionately about culture in Egypt, including the role of the djinn and significance of jewelry to the Zar; all while her own jewelry jingled softly, slightly amplified by the microphone. Martinez’s message to the audience was simple: “Upload your stuff, you never know who might like it.”

Martinez added, “I want [writers] to know; have some confidence, go out there, you can do it. You never know what can come from it.”

MAGEC asking for new or gently used books

Book drive open through March 1

By Vincent Perez
Features Editor

University classes are known to be progressive and forward-thinking. CSU Bakersfield’s clubs want the same for the students, who will be the future.

In an effort to educate students on campus on culture and gender issues, the Multicultural Alliance and Gender Equity Resource Center (MAGEC), with coordination ny graduate student leader Hayley Schlechta, is hosting a culture and gender book drive.

“I saw a need and this was the best way to fix it,” said Schlechta. “This was something that was needed.”

Schlechta, a former public administration major, has been leading MAGEC since fall 2018.

On Feb. 6, Schlechta provided an update on a few stacks of books MAGEC received.

“We got a few from campus staff, Bakersfield College and The Center [for Sexuality & Gender Diversity] downtown,” Schlechta said. But more are needed.

Any books with topics on religion, culture, gender, ethnicity or race can be donated at MAGEC, located in Student Housing West, inside the Rohan building, ground floor.

Samantha DeLaCruz, senior, president of

Club Gen, said, “Ever since MAGEC was discussed, Club Gen has been very much a part of this space.”

DeLaCruz spoke about how Club Gen’s Jai’s Library, their own book collection of affirming gender and sexuality books, aligns with MAGEC’s drive. “MAGEC having their own library and book drive is an extension of what this center is about and furthering awareness, education, and visibility,” DeLaCruz said.

“Access to something such as books is underrated,” DeLaCruz added.

DeLaCruz said that CSUB has a great library on campus, “But if we can provide anything beyond that, I think it’s really great, especially in a center that is validating and safe,” DeLaCruz said.

Outreach is important to the CSUB campus and MAGEC. Along with its supporting clubs, such as LGBTQ+ Pride, Club Gen, Black Student Union and Japan and Beyond, the word is spread about acceptance of students from diverse backgrounds at CSUB and Bakersfield.

One of those students that was reached was Jaime Dilonueva, a senior.

“You get a different perspective of what is going on in the world,” he said. Dilonueva found MAGEC through a friend.

He said he came to America when he was 12. He later attended Oxnard College, before transferring to CSUB last year.

“I feel here it’s more involved at CSUB,” said Dilonueva on student involvement on campus.

New or gently used gender or culture books can be donated from through March 1 at MAGEC.

What’s Happening Around Campus

February

13 Culture & Gender Book Drive 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Rohan, 1st Floor	18 Homecoming Week Kick-off 12 - 1 p.m. SU Patio
Event Horizon 2 - 4 p.m. SU Patio	Homecoming Kick-off BBQ 1 - 2:30 p.m. SU, Runner Park
14 Br. Basil Tikoff (Speaker Series) 12 -1 p.m. Romberg Nursing Building, 105	20 Campus Alumni Lunch & Social 11:30 - 1 p.m. SRC, Solario
Brown Bag Discussions 12 - 1 p.m. Stockdale Room	STEM Internship Fair 2 - 4 p.m. SU, MPR 125
15 Alumni Hall of Fame Gala 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	23 Homecoming Dance 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Marriott Hotel
MAHC - Physical Therapist (Guest Speaker) 2 - 3 p.m. Humanities BLDG, 1108	26 CSUB Climbing Series 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. SU, Rock Wall
16 CSUB Women’s Basketball vs. Kansas City 1 - 3 p.m. Icardo Center	Fab Lab Hours: Mon: Closed Tues: 12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Wed: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thur: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Calendar sponsored by School of Natural Science, Mathematics, and Engineering and School of Arts and Humanities. To be included, contact jburger1@csub.edu.

Last minute Valentine dates

By Samantha Cook
Reporter

Flowers, teddy bears, and heart-shaped boxes wrapped up in big red bows flood the shelves in every retail establishment around. The past month has been spent in a rose-colored haze as Valentine's Day nears.

Such a holiday may spark the most nostalgic of memories for some, like sophomore business major Simmren Mudhar. She told her best memories of Valentine's Days past.

"I used to only send the 'You're cute!' card to my crush," she said.

But what about now? Valentine's Day as a college student has lost the simplicity of a greeting card and lollipop from your classmates, so finding an activity to do with that special someone on the big day can be especially tricky. Don't worry though, here are a few last-minute ideas to add a little love to your day, whether it's with your Valentine or Pal-entines.

Partner Climb

Valentine's Day starts early at the Student Rec Center at CSUB. Open to all CSUB students, the SRC is hosting a Partner Climb from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Feb. 14. This event calls for a person

and a partner to work together to complete physical challenges while attempting to climb the rock wall.

Alejandra Ruiz, a kinesiology major and student manager at the rock wall, said, "Because it's Valentine's Day, we wanted to make something of it."

The event is open for students to come and climb whenever they can during the nine-hour block. Wear comfortable gym-appropriate attire and bring your student ID to check into the facility.

Ruiz added, "It's inclusive for everyone." Bring a partner, or meet someone new at the event.

"You gain friendship and trust," she said.

Miniature Golf & Arcade

If you're looking for some friendly competition with your Valentine this year, you can challenge your special someone to a game of mini-golf at Camelot Park.

Sales Group Director Jenifer Fowler said, "Bring your date for mini-golf on Valentine's Day, and your date is free."

Who doesn't love a two-for-one deal? You and your date can golf around the world in an 18-hole course for a fun and inexpensive date. At \$7.99, you'll have a winning date that won't break the

bank.

Movies

For the film buffs and Netflix-binge champions, the movie theater is a great place to take your date. Releasing on Valentine's Day is a rom-com starring Rebel Wilson, Liam Hemsworth, and a number of other big stars called "Isn't It Romantic." Laughter is the way to the heart, after all. Studio Movie Grill even offers a \$7 student discount with a student ID. Grab a date or some friends and enjoy a meal, movie, and drinks all in one place. However, you can always skip the theater and have a movie night in for Valentine's Day instead. CNET.com suggests Valentine's movies on Netflix including "Silver Linings Playbook," "Nappily Ever After," and a classic from the '80s, "Sixteen Candles."

Rolling Solo? No Problem.

Even if Valentine's Day just simply is not for you, you can always throw an anti-Valentine's Day celebration with your friends and enjoy the big blowout sales on Valentine's candy that are bound to start on Feb. 15. When it comes to marked down chocolates, there is plenty to celebrate.



From aceshowbiz.com

Rebel Wilson (Natalie) shows her leading role skills in "Isn't It Romantic," out Feb. 13.

CSUB chapters prove worth students' effort

By Silvia Lopez Medero
Reporter

Many assumptions are made about Greek life, but not many know what it means to be a part of a sorority or fraternity.

"You have to be committed to be in a sorority it's a lot of work, and I have no time for that," said Mo Gonzalez, a theater major.

"I haven't really thought about joining a fraternity, but I have no time because of my added worry of commuting to and from school," said Raul Gonzalez, an engineering major.

Time seems to be a common deal breaker for students, but Greek members seem to have other ways of looking at this ordeal.

"You grow a lot because of all the responsibilities you have," said Denise Chavez, a member of Nu Phi Chi and an English major.

"There is time required in sororities, and you need to be able to think on your own," said Ashley Schmidt, ASI president and alumnae of Gamma Phi Beta.

"There is a lot of time consumption, but it depends on you to adapt to it," said Thom Turingan, a member of Omega Delta Phi and a pre-nursing student.

However, they also spoke of some of the common misconceptions about Greek life.

"A lot of people get their ideas of fraternities from movies. You know the group life, partying, and other negative views, but Greek life is more than that," said Turingan. He summed up many people's views on greek life.

Greek members find that movies have an inaccurate representation of Greek life, especially on the recruitment process. Many believe that there are qualities that sorority or fraternity members must have to be a Greek, but Greek members strongly disagree with this.

"You have to be yourself. Recruitment weekend is a wonderful chance to show who you are to sororities and find your match. Just remember if they can't see you for you then that sorority is not for you," Schmidt said.



From The Runner Archives

Students congregate on the CSUB campus during Greek Week, on Aug. 27, 2018.

She further shared what she believes recruitment is like to her. "It's like a potluck," Schmidt said.

"Each person brings something new that is unique, and makes the experience better."

This advice holds true as other members had similar views to share.

Furthermore, they all believed that there were more advantages to being part of Greek life. These

advantages include growth of skills and connections to fellow Greeks.

"The people around you will push you a lot, so you're going to grow a lot because of that," said Chavez.

"You will grow a lot because Greek life is a learning process," said Thom Turingan.

"It's a leadership opportunity that will develop your skills for conflict resolution and broaden

your views as you work with different perspectives," said Schmidt.

Schmidt also went in depth into the connection you make, which she believes is the biggest perk of Greek life.

"You are called brothers and sisters," she said. "And there's a meaning behind those words, It's to the point you feel you can rely on these people because you will be brothers and sister for life."

Credit available for students

By Lauren Silvis
Reporter

Picture this: A CSU Bakersfield student is sitting in the library trying to finish her first research paper of the semester, when she realizes she can’t ignore the TurboTax ads anymore.

She switches over to Google to see how much it costs. It’s \$69.99. Panic ensues. She must pay \$69.99 in addition to the \$788 in student fees, those three parking tickets, that book she still needs and her computer that just broke. Eventually, she succumbs, knowing she has no choice, and buys TurboTax.

Just as she starts to calm down, tax hieroglyphics hit the screen. The W-2, the 1099, the 1098-T, the 1040, the 8606 and more crowd her brain. She can’t handle it. She’s not alone. For this story posted to Twitter, filing their taxes is *seriously* stressing them out. Approximately 11,250 students said that they are stressed.

Wouldn’t it be nice if there was someone to teach students how to file their taxes? What if that same person could explain how the student could get up to \$2,500 back? And what if it was free? Guess what? It exists and it’s free for CSUB students, faculty and staff.

CSUB partnered with the Community Action Partnership of Kern’s, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, offering free income tax assistance. Every Saturday, through March 30, CSUB students can bring in a few documents and have one-on-one time with an IRS certified volunteer who will help file their taxes.

Dr. Benjamin Bae, faculty coordinator of CSUB’s VITA program said, “Free tax preparations provide students, staff,

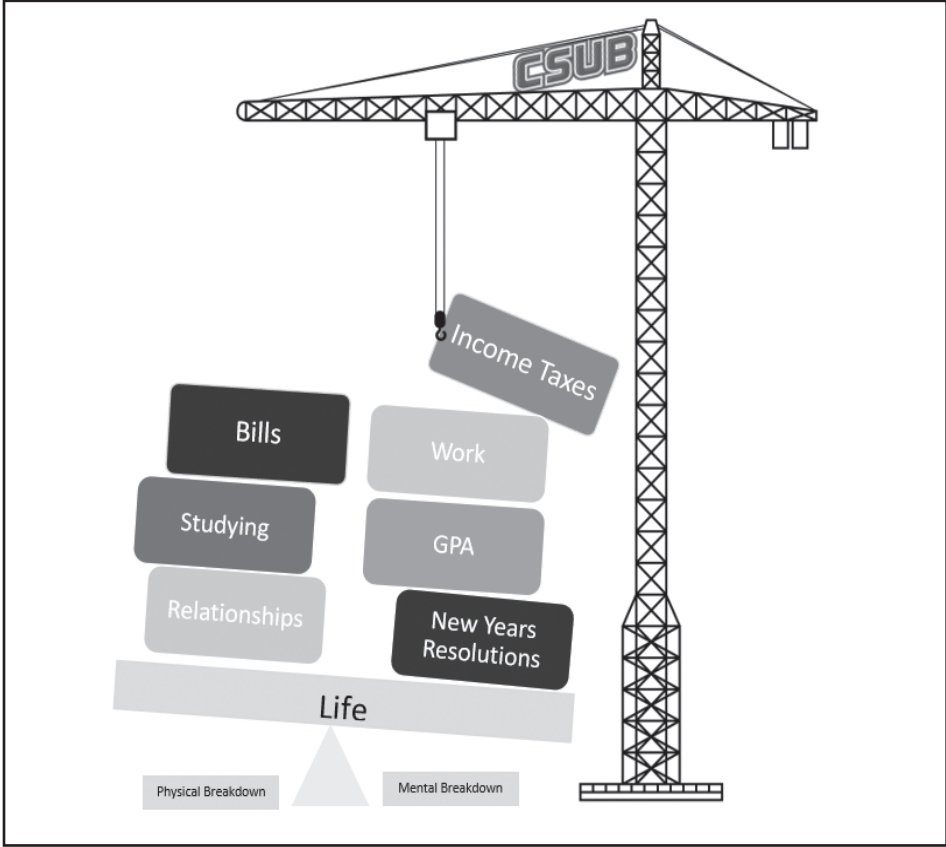


Illustration by Lauren Silvis/The Runner

and faculty with complete tax returns in a timely fashion, enabling them to receive proper tax credits and refunds.”

Dr. Bae also said “services are totally free. It takes about one hour on average and estimate that CSUB VITA will serve about 250 clients this year.”

During the appointment one will learn about two main tax cuts for college students: the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC), and the Lifetime Learning Credit (LLC). In a separate Twitter poll, over 6,000 students admitted they did not know about those credits. To be eligible for AOTC, a maximum

\$2,500 credit, the student must:

- Be pursuing a degree or other recognized education credential.
 - Be enrolled at least half time for at least one academic period.
 - Not have finished the first four years of higher education .
 - Not have claimed the AOTC or former. Hope credit for more than four tax years
 - Not have a felony drug conviction.
- If for some reason the student is not eligible, there is another option.

To be eligible for LLC, a maximum \$2,000 credit, the student must:

- Be enrolled or taking courses at an eligi-

ble educational institution.

- Be taking higher education course or courses to get a degree or other recognized education credential or to get or improve job skills.
- Be enrolled for at least one academic period beginning in the tax year.

The average Bakersfield tax filer pays between \$100 and \$350 for this same free service. This is the VITA program’s third consecutive year at CSUB.

“Unless students use professional services or get familiar with tax credits, the chance is high that they overlook or are unaware of this kind of credit.”

Dr. Benjamin Bae, faculty coordinator of VITA

When asked about last year, Angappa Gunasekaran, Dean for the School of Business and Public Administration said, “The program was well received by the Bakersfield community and BPA is excited to be participating again this year.”

Not all students were aware of the program. Sociology major, Angela Barnes, said, “I didn’t know about this service or this tax credit and I missed out on money last year.” Dr. Bae said, “Unless students use professional services or get familiar with tax credits, the chance is high that they overlook or are unaware of this kind of credit.”

Call (661) 654-3406 to book an appointment with a certified IRS volunteer.

Events will highlight Black History Month at CSUB

By Alliyah Reed
Reporter

Black History Month is upon us. Although we are halfway through the month there are still plenty of opportunities to get involved and celebrate on campus and in the community.

CSUB’s Black Student Union and Club Gen joined together to kick off Black History Month by hosting a kickoff gathering on Feb. 1.

The fourth annual Unity Breakfast was held Friday, Feb. 8 where first-year program coordinator Emerson Case and transfer student success coordinator Natasha Harris were presented with the Unity Award for their outstanding contributions in promoting diversity and collaborations in our campus community.

That night the third annual Gospel Fest was held in the Icardo Center filled with amazing acts. Saturday, Feb. 9, was the trip to the California African American Museum in Los Angeles, California.

Tyree Boyd-Pates, a CSUB alum is currently the history curator and program manager at the museum.

If you missed out on these events, don’t worry. There are many more events to attend.

Why is Black History Month in February?

Black History Month began as “Negro History Week,” in 1926 when Carter G. Woodson, a respected African-American historian alongside the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) started the celebration in Chicago.

Woodson noticed the lack of black history that was taught in American schools at all levels of education and knew he must do something about it.

This prompted the launch of “Negro History Week.” Woodson chose the second week of February because it encompassed both Fredrick Douglass’s birthday Feb. 14 and Abraham Lincoln’s birthday Feb. 12.

During the civil rights movement colleges across the country transformed the week into a month and numerous mayors had adopted the month-long celebration.

It was not until 1976 that the current president, Gerald Ford, decree Black History Month a national observance.

That year was 50 years after the first celebration. Today African Americans continue to make history.

Upcoming Events:
Wednesday, Feb. 13: Expression Nights at 7 p.m. in the Stockdale Room
Thursday, Feb. 14: BSU pop up shop starting at 10:30 a.m. on Red Brick Road. -Brown Bag Discussion “Black Women & Black Power” at 12 noon in the Stockdale Room.
Saturday, Feb. 16: BSU Arts Show “BLK Outside the Box” at 12 noon in the Performing Arts Building and lecture.
Tuesday, Feb. 19: BSU pop up shop start-

ing at 10:30 a.m. on Red Brick Road.
Saturday, Feb. 23: Bakersfield Black American History Parade at 10 a.m. on 21st and V St.
Thursday, Feb. 28 : Live Podcast Presents: Black History Month finale with guest speaker Serien Sensei at 1 p.m. in the Student Union Multipurpose Room feat.Bakersfield College Speaker, Cleman-tine Wamariya at 7 p.m. at the Levan Center.

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STRONG.
CARING.

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All Workshops will be held in the Student Union Green Room

LEADER Program Orientation

All Students Welcome!

Feb. 15
11:30am

Feb. 19
1pm

Feb. 25
1pm

RUNNER ON THE STREET

Interview Jessica Manzo/ Photos by Jessica Manzo and Bre Parks

This week The Runner asked, “What are your plans for Valentine’s Day?”

Alvaro Chavez
Bio-Tech



“Study in the library for a test.”

Melanie Garcia
Criminal Justice



“Honestly, probably nothing, just school. Maybe I’ll hang out with friends or do home-work.”

Angel Mendoza
Business



“Probably just hang out at my house with family and probably watch a movie.”

Karina Fernandez
Liberal Studies



“I have no plans, just school.”

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?

By Jessica Manzo
Opinions Writer

Ah, Valentine’s Day, the one day when you can finally tell your secret admirer it’s been you all along. The day you can shower that special someone because they deserve it.

And why not? It’s what the day is made for! Hope the gifts you got for them are everything they want and more...

Valentine’s Day just may not be that big of a deal as how the holiday is portrayed to be, though. For many reasons, students on campus are not partaking in the ‘special day.’

David Pulido, who’s majoring in business, can second that, stating that he, too, has no plans. “[I’ll be doing] nothing, just regular school. Sad, right?” Pulido said.

Perhaps with our early exposure to movies, TV shows, and the media of how Valentine’s Day should be, it can add a lot of pressure. Really, does anyone know exactly what the big deal is?

Psych Central reports that “Valentine’s Day is big business. According to CNN, Valentine’s Day sales will reach \$18.6 billion this year. People will spend an average of \$130.97 per person. (Remember: That’s an average.

Some people will spend much more; others much less.) 145 million Valentine cards will be sold. \$4.4 billion will be spent on diamonds, gold and silver. That’s a lot of peer pressure.”

From our early youth, beginning in elementary school, we have been taught that this day is meant for us to profess our love because if not today, your opportunity will pass.

Does anyone else remember specifically saving the card with the more ‘lovey’ saying for your crush?

Fatima Manzo, criminal justice major, will be spending her first Valentine’s with her crush.

She said she is feeling nervous for her date. They will be going out to eat, then they will catch a movie, though the place to eat and movie to watch are still be decided.

Sometimes the best dates are when they are not planned, easing off some pressure, as if there isn’t enough already. What counts is thought but we should take more time to celebrate the people we love.

I feel that one should treat or go all out for their significant other because they want to on any day of the year and not just because they are expected to for this holiday.

One day each year should not be the only time you ever show love, compassion and appreciation to your partner.



JJ Reed/The Runner

Is the Mandela Effect real, or a defect in human memory?

By Bliss Streeks
Opinions Writer

Imagine waking up and your brother is no longer in existence. Your parents ask you what you are talking about, and state that you have never had a brother named John.

“Are you okay, honey?” they ask you with very concerned expressions on their faces.

This has happened to normal people like you and me who are experiencing a shift in reality that is described using the term Mandela Effect. Most Mandela Effect examples are small and do not have huge implications and effects on our day-to-day lives. Some people, however, have experienced extreme examples such as a now nonexistent family memory or a spouse who is completely different from the person they were married to yesterday.

You could attribute these anomalies to a mental illness, but there are plenty of people out there experiencing this phenomena that are normal people just like you and me. Can you imagine waking up and your mother no longer has curly hair, or your

dad now drives a Jeep when you know for certain he drove a Honda yesterday?

YouTuber *thettruthergirls* made a video about how her father’s entire life story changed, and another Youtuber *perrrfec-tion* claims that her husband is no longer the same person. Another YouTuber, Cheyenna Joy, says that her name has changed.

These are all things that are pretty difficult to just not remember correctly, but you are welcome to watch their videos and decide for yourself.

Rather than focus on the more extreme examples, I want to highlight some of the more common examples for those of you who are new to this phenomenon. Do you remember the book series you read as a child about the family of bears who taught us all important life lessons and manners? What were they called? The Beren_____ Bears. You fill in the gap. For those of you who filled it in with STAIN, you either have a more accurate memory than I do, or you are from this timeline and/or dimension. I remember it as many others do as Berenstain Bears.

There are other examples, such as the death of Nelson Mandela, the example that gave the Mandela Effect its name. When do you remember him dying? Do you remember him dying in prison? Well, if you do, you are a sufferer of the Mandela Effect because he actually died Dec. 5 in 2013.

Or how about the popular cleaner Ox_clean? Is it spelled with a “y” or is it spelled with an “i”? There is a popular YouTuber who claims that he had a picture of himself with a container of Ox-iclean (Yes, it is spelled with “i”) before, when it was still a y. One day he looked at this photo and it changed from being an i one morning to being a y the next! This individual could very well be insane or just having a lapse in memory, but he is not alone.

I would encourage those of you who are new to this phenomenon to delve into and decide for yourself what you think. Ask yourself along your journey whether it makes sense for so many people to have the EXACT same alternate memories. Could that really be a defect in memory

or confabulation? Are humans able to somehow by means of a collective consciousness remember the exact same incorrect memory by the hundreds of thousands? That seems unlikely to me.

If it is all true, is it a cause for concern, or should we just be vigilant and keep our eyes open to new changes so that we may better assess how to proceed with our lives in the future? Maybe human beings are ascending this plain of existence. Maybe we are jumping to a new dimension. Maybe someone has traveled back in time and it has screwed up or merged our timelines.

I agree, it’s best to be happy in the face of any dilemma to the best of your ability, because fear or anger won’t solve the problem. I worry, though, that the next generation may not be as concerned about what is going on in the world around them as they should be, and one day they will be the ones to rule it. I hope that articles like this will spark people’s awareness and instigate enough curiosity to push them to investigating matters like this on their own.

7 do's and don'ts of dating

By Rylee Smith
Opinions Editor

Valentine's Day is here whether you can afford it or not. If you're lucky enough to have a date, make the most of it. Get out there and represent those of us who don't. To get you ready for the big day, I talked to the people you find yourself on a date with- other students- and consulted expert opinions to compile a list of do's and don'ts for dating. Anyone who's been on a few dates can attest to the fact that it's dangerous out there in the dating world. It's best to be prepared for anything.

Do: Pay for your first date, if you're a guy. If you want to have a debate about how times are changing and women should be stepping up for true equality, you can make that argument. If you want to go on a second date, you can listen to me. Or you can listen to a survey conducted in *Money Magazine* that found that out of more than 4,000 respondents, 78 percent thought the man should pay for the first date. If your date falls into that majority, you might not want to disappoint her.

Don't: Forget to brush your teeth and take a shower. I feel uncomfortable that we still have to have this conversation, but here we are. Andrew Paredez, a junior majoring in communications, said that he ran into this problem when a recent date had bad breath.

"I didn't know what to do," Paredez laughed.

If you're going to blow your chances with someone, this is probably the most embarrassing way to do so. You probably already have toothpaste (and deodorant!) in your house. Give it a try.

Do: Look out for clues that the person you're interested in dating isn't already dating someone else. Dariana Ceron, a sophomore majoring in business man-

agement, was surprised when her date with her boyfriend was interrupted by a stranger.

"Recently, I was on a date with my boyfriend and a guy sent me a drink. I'm not old enough to drink, so I just gave it to my boyfriend. He was happy to have the free drink. The guy didn't say anything about that, so I think he kinda noticed I was with someone," Ceron said.

If you know how expensive drinks are, you know there's a good chance that guy is going to get behind on rent if he keeps buying drinks for girls that are obviously taken. You can try to go for someone who's at dinner with someone else, but it's not your best bet.

Don't: Keep asking for pictures of someone when you're texting. There's a great new invention called Snapchat, where you can casually send selfies back and forth while having a conversation. There's also the older invention, called "getting to know each other" which requires you to just talk to someone and let them send you, or not send you, what they want.

Do: Keep a first date positive and light, and get into the more serious and personal conversations once you get to know someone better. The last thing you want to do is tell a story about how you misheard your high school boyfriend when he said "I'll see you," and you responded with "I love you too." Okay, maybe that's just me. But I wouldn't tell that story on a first date! Psychotherapist Chloe Carmichael suggested in an interview with *eHarmony* that you should practice giving information about yourself without crossing into the territory of over-sharing.

"You want to be comfortable sharing... and putting in personal boundaries by not having to share every single detail," Carmichael said.

Don't: Pressure your date to do



Aqsa Khan/The Runner

anything he or she doesn't want to do! Inviting someone to a romantic picnic in the park or buying movie tickets doesn't entitle you to anything.

"I just feel like if the guy pays they feel like you owe them something. It's important to be understanding of my beliefs and not try to push sex," said junior Mari Woodmansee.

Do: Listen to understand what the other person is saying (not just to respond), and follow up on what they told you. Communications professor Jamie Butow says that really paying attention is the best way to show someone you care.

"[It's romantic when] they call to check up on you after a presentation at work,

and ask, 'How did it go?' They ask because they know it's important. And that goes back to listening, that you were able to follow up," Butow said.

If you're thinking about someone, this is the perfect way to tell them. It's preferable instead of, for example, pretending you're taking a selfie when you're really taking a picture of them and sending it to your group message. Not that I've ever done that before...

This Valentine's Day, the world is your Olive Garden. You have what it takes now to have a great date night. And if you're handsome and don't have a date yet, don't worry. It's not too late to ask me.

Texting and driving takes the smart out of smartphone

By Allie Page
Opinions Writer

People should not send text messages while they drive vehicles. The act of texting and driving places lives and property at risk, and it can easily be avoided by using a voice-based service like Siri.

In January 2018, a new California policy on mobile phone use while driving went into effect.

The law, found in Division 11 and Chapter 12 of the California Vehicle Code, states that drivers may not use a mobile phone while driving unless it is used hands-free.

Policies such as this one discourage distracted driving, which can easily lead to an accident.

Since driving requires split-second response times, drivers' attention should be on the road at all times.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving killed 3,450 people in just 2016.

driving killed 3,450 people in just 2016. Texting and driving poses a similar risk to drinking and driving. When drivers drink alcohol, their vision, judgment and reaction time are impaired, and when someone texts and drives, those things aren't even where they need to be.

The driver's attention is on the phone, not on the road. In the five to 10 seconds it takes to send a text, someone can cause

serious damage and not realize it until it is too late.

In 2011, the Texas Transportation Institute conducted a study on texting and driving, and the researchers found that drivers' reaction times increased from as little as one second to as much as four seconds.

The study, which was the first to use actual cars instead of a simulator, also found that distracted drivers lose their ability to stay in their lanes and maintain their speeds.

Sadly, people who crave immediate gratification go through with this risky behavior, even if they know what's at stake.

Some people who like to text and drive may defend their habits by saying they have done it for years and have yet to hurt anyone. They don't believe that such a thing could happen to them.

The problem with this philosophy is that they don't realize what they are doing until it is too late.

"I think it's irresponsible, mostly because

people don't tend to think about the consequences it could have," said Valeria Padilla, a junior-year history major and criminal justice minor. "They think, 'Oh, nothing has happened before,' so that's most likely not going to happen in the future. But it's like that split-second where everything changes, and that's what people don't get."

Before motorists send messages behind the wheel, they should ask themselves if it is worth injury or death. They should ask themselves if it's worth placing themselves in jeopardy or killing innocent bystanders.

Drivers should consider alternatives, such as waiting to text until they come to a stop, pulling over if it's urgent, or using hands-free voice recognition software.

While Siri can be a hassle, it can't possibly be worse than a tragic crash. Every second counts while on the road, and no message is worth losing a life.

Star Wars: The War between Disney and Fans

By Jayson Edgerle
Opinions Editor

When Disney bought the rights to “Star Wars” in 2012, I was thrilled. I thought that there couldn’t be a more perfect match for the franchise than the company that’s all about magic. While recent years have shown that perhaps my faith was misplaced, an incident in January may suggest a change is coming.

On Dec. 21, 2018, a YouTube channel called “Star Wars Theory” released a Darth Vader fan film that the channel creator, whose name isn’t on the channel, and his team had spent nearly a year working on. The film was well received by the community, with currently 564,000 likes and more than 8 million plus views.

Before work began on the project, the channel creator approached Lucasfilm, informing them of his idea and what he hoped to accomplish and have their blessing to make it. Lucasfilm responded with the following conditions, as paraphrased by the channel creator.

“We’re all for the fan film,” said the creator. “However, [Lucasfilm] won’t allow crowdfunding; it must come from a private investor or myself. Second, the film cannot be monetized.”

He followed Lucasfilm’s directions to the letter, but yet on Jan. 14, the video got copyright claimed by Warner Chappell and Disney because a section of the music composition sounded like John Williams’ “Imperial March.” Basically, the creator put together this film with his own money and was prohibited from making a cent to

make it or earn money off it after completion, yet these companies just swooped in and made money off his work by placing ads in the video and with every view, they got paid. Naturally, the fans were pissed.

So, it came as a surprise when two days later, Lucasfilm approached Warner and told them to remove the claim on the film. However, fans are not quick to forgive Lucasfilm and Disney.

In 2014, Lucasfilm announced that the old “Star Wars” Expanded Universe (EU) would be discontinued and will be referred to as “Legends.” This means that nearly two decades of stories would be made irrelevant. While Lucasfilm is still selling the old canon books and drawing ideas from them, that timeline will no longer be worked on.

According to StarWars.com, Disney had a good reason to remove the previous cannon.

“In order to give maximum creative freedom to the filmmakers and also preserve an element of surprise and discovery for the audience, ‘Star Wars Episodes VII-IX’ will not tell the same story told in the post-‘Return of the Jedi’ Expanded Universe.”

Then there are the movies themselves. While many fans were turned off by the “The Force Awakens” for various reasons, the biggest discussion is about “The Last Jedi.” This was the film that was the breaking point for many fans and how the director, Rian Johnson, handled any valid criticism of the film was enough for many fans to not even bother seeing the next film, “Solo,” making it the first movie of



Illustration by Aaron Horne /The Runner

the franchise to actually lose money.

The situation was so bad that Disney CEO Bob Iger had this to say regarding future “Star Wars” movies in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter.

“I made the timing decision, and as I look back, I think the mistake that I made—I take the blame—was a little too much, too fast,” said Iger. “You can expect some slowdown, but that doesn’t mean we’re not going to make films... But I think we’re going to be a little bit more careful about volume and timing. And the buck

stops here on that.”

If Lucasfilm wants the franchise to be the mega money maker that it was before the Disney-buyout, they have to win back the fans. Although they are far from being forgiven for the many things that they have done, if they continue the trend of what they did with the Vader fan film debacle, siding with the fans and giving them what they want rather than what Disney thinks they want, “Star Wars” just might make a comeback.

Food for thought: Runner Café offers more than students expected

By Jorge Avila
Opinions Writer

The Runner Café has been a topic of discussion amongst students since the dramatic shift from open food court to buffet.

The buffet is meant to provide a greater incentive for students to purchase the food pass most often held by those living on campus.

Whether all students appreciate the change, however, is still up for debate.

Eduardo Figueroa, a mealpass holder and junior majoring in criminal justice, says, “The quality of the food is inconsistent, varying from day to day,” but then goes on to say it is still well worth the price due to the unlimited access upon entry.

Despite his overall satisfaction, Figueroa stated he would have preferred the cafeteria remain an open food court like it used to be simply because the environment was livelier.

In comparison, other students appear to be more satisfied with the cafeteria’s new format.

Junior student Nessa Mahai, living on campus and majoring in political science, has attended CSUB for the past three years, so she has been well acquainted with the cafeteria both before and after the change.

She agrees that the food is not always of the highest quality, but that she still prefers the cafeteria as a buffet because of the wide array of options available, ranging from pizza to salads.

Although students seem to agree the quality of the food could be improved, the fact that it is all unlimited for the price of \$10.39 makes it well worth the entry, especially for holders of the food pass card.

The buffet is a boon for not only cardholders, but also students living on campus as it provides the greatest variation of choices out of any food source available on the university.

One major concern after the cafeteria’s shift to a buffet style format was the idea that no one would even go to the buffet considering its entry price is expensive.

According to Sylvia Contrera, a Runner Café staff member, the buffet experiences several rush hours throughout the day, especially from noon to 1:30 p.m., with Wednesdays being busy from opening to closing.

Contrera states, “There is always a decent handful of students present at the buffet and most, if not all, leave satisfied.”

Contrary to popular belief, the buffet is doing quite well, judging by Contrera’s statement, and although many miss the open access of the Café, the unlimited access to various foods makes the entry fee well worth the price.

Most agree the food could be improved, but with an open salad bar, grill, sandwich shop, and alternating meals between breakfast, lunch, and dinner, you’re bound to find something to like at CSUB’s Runner Café.

“The quality of the food is inconsistent, varying from day to day,” but [Runner Café] is still well worth the price due to the unlimited access upon entry.

Eduardo Figueroa,
junior

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Best Picture:

- ☐ "A Star Is Born"
- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "Green Book"
- ☐ "Roma"
- ☐ "Vice"

Best Animated Feature Film:

- ☐ "Incredibles 2"
- ☐ "Isle of Dogs"
- ☐ "Mirai"
- ☐ "Ralph Breaks the Internet"
- ☐ "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"

Best Director:

- ☐ Spike Lee, "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ Pawel Pawlikowski, "ColdWar"
- ☐ Yorgos Lanthimos, "The Favourite"
- ☐ Alfonso Cuaron, "Roma"
- ☐ Adam McKay, "Vice"

Best Actress:

- ☐ Yalitza Aparicio, "Roma"
- ☐ Glenn Close, "The Wife"
- ☐ Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"
- ☐ Lady Gaga, "A Star Is Born"
- ☐ Melissa McCarthy, "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"

Best Actor:

- ☐ Christian Bale, "Vice"
- ☐ Bradley Cooper, "A Star Is Born"
- ☐ Willem Dafoe, "At Eternity's Gate"
- ☐ Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- ☐ Viggo Mortensen, "Green Book"

Best Supporting Actress:

- ☐ Amy Adams,"Vice"
- ☐ Marina de Tavira, "Roma"
- ☐ Regina King, "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- ☐ Emma Stone, "The Favourite"
- ☐ Rachel Weisz, "The Favourite"

Best Supporting Actor:

- ☐ Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"
- ☐ Adam Driver, "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ Sam Elliott, "A Star Is Born"
- ☐ Richard E. Grant, "Can You Ever Forgive me?"
- ☐ Sam Rockwell, "Vice"

Best Foreign Language Film:

- ☐ "Capernaum"(Lebanon)

- ☐ "Cold War" (Poland)
- ☐ "Never Look Away" (Germany)
- ☐ "Roma" (Mexico)
- ☐ "Shoplifters" (Japan)

Best Adapted Screenplay:

- ☐ "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"
- ☐ "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ "Can You Ever Forgive Me?"
- ☐ "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- ☐ "A Star Is Born"

Best Original Screenplay:

- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "First Reformed"
- ☐ "Green Book"
- ☐ "Roma"
- ☐ "Vice"

Best Cinematography:

- ☐ "ColdWar"
- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "Never Look Away"
- ☐ "Roma"
- ☐ "A Star Is Born"

Best Costume Design:

- ☐ "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"
- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "Mary Poppins Returns"
- ☐ "Mary Queen of Scots"

Best Film Editing:

- ☐ "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "GreenBook"
- ☐ "Vice"

Best Production Design:

- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "The Favourite"
- ☐ "First Man"
- ☐ "Mary Poppins Returns"
- ☐ "Roma"

Best Original Song:

- ☐ "All the Stars," from "Black Panther"
- ☐ "I'll Fight," from "RBG"
- ☐ "The Place Where Lost Things Go," from "Mary Poppins Returns"
- ☐ "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born"
- ☐ "When a Cowboy Trades His Spurs For Wings" from "The Ballad of Buster Scruggs"

Best Original Score:

- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "BlacKkKlansman"
- ☐ "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- ☐ "Isle of Dogs"
- ☐ "Mary Poppins Returns"

Best Sound Mixing:

- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- ☐ "First Man"
- ☐ "Roma"
- ☐ "A Star Is Born"

Best Sound Editing:

- ☐ "Black Panther"
- ☐ "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- ☐ "First Man"
- ☐ "A Quiet Place"
- ☐ "Roma"

Best Visual Effects:

- ☐ "Avengers: InfinityWar"
- ☐ "Christopher Robin"
- ☐ "First Man"
- ☐ "Ready Player One"
- ☐ "Solo: A Star Wars Story"

Best Makeup and Hairstyling:

- ☐ "Border"

- ☐ "Mary Queen of Scots"
- ☐ "Vice"

Best Documentary - Feature:

- ☐ "Free Solo"
- ☐ "Hale County This Morning, This Evening"
- ☐ "Minding the Gap"
- ☐ "Of Fathers and Sons"
- ☐ "RBG"

Best Documentary - Short Subject:

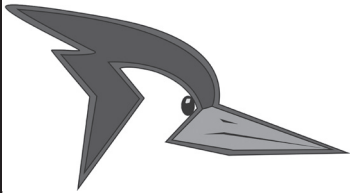
- ☐ "Black Sheep"
- ☐ "End Game"
- ☐ "Lifeboat"
- ☐ "A Night at the Garden"
- ☐ "Period. End of Sentence."

Best Animated Short Film:

- ☐ "Animal Behaviour"
- ☐ "Bao"
- ☐ "Late Afternoon"
- ☐ "One Small Step"
- ☐ "Weekends"

Best Live Action Short Film:

- ☐ "Detainment"
- ☐ "Fauve"
- ☐ "Marguerite"
- ☐ "Mother"
- ☐ "Skin"



Pick who you think will win each category in the 2019 Oscar's. The person with the most correct guesses will win an Oscar party basket!

Name: _____

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To enter to win: Turn in the completed page by Wednesday, Feb. 20 to The Runner, located in Modular III next to the food pantry. The winner will be announced Feb. 25.

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— President Lynnette Zelezny

The McCall's 'got hops like pops'

By Chris Burdick
Assistant Sports Editor

The Ogwumike sisters. The Morris twins. The Ball family.

These are some of the most well-known, modern-day basketball siblings. Living proof that basketball is not just a team sport, but a family affair. California State University, Bakersfield has one of these basketball families playing on it's home court.

Coach Greg McCall has been the head coach for the CSUB women's basketball team for the last eight years.

As a former player for the CSUB Roadrunners back in 1991, McCall made it all the way to the Division II Final Four. He was also part of the womens basketball coaching staff when they won a Division II title as an assistant coach in 1997.

His love for the sport of basketball has driven his coaching career forward and rubbed off on his children as well. The family seems to gravitate to the game, seeing no shortage of talent on the court.

"It started off as an extracurricular activity. Then just got more serious as they got older," McCall said. "I was never one of those dads that pushed basketball on them, because I am a basketball junkie."

Although McCall did not force the game on any of his children, he said that they have all somehow gravitated to the game individually.

Starting with his eldest daughter DeWanna Bonner, McCall was able to help create a successful student-athlete mentality. DeWanna became a star player at Auburn University and was selected 5th overall in the 2009 WNBA draft by the Phoenix Mercury.

Next was McCall's second oldest daughter Erica. Following in the footsteps of her older sister, Erica was awarded a scholarship to attend Stanford University. Where she played against CSUB and her father in 2016.

"It was awesome, but I wanted to win. I wanted to beat her and beat Stanford," said McCall. "The way I coach my team, they are going to play hard for me anyway. But that was just extra motivation."

"I knew deep down that everybody wanted Erica to win," coach McCall laughed. "Because Erica is Erica."

Cal State lost that game 77-56. And in the 2017, Erica followed in her sister DeWanna's footsteps once again, and was drafted in the second round of the WNBA draft by the Indiana Fever.

Today, the oldest son of McCall, Justin, is in his sophomore year playing guard for the CSUB men's basketball team. He is currently working hard to find the same success that his older sisters have found.

Justin is currently averaging 2.7 points per game off the bench and has registered a career high of 11 points during his game on January 29 against University of California, Santa Cruz.

Justin attended Ridgeview high school growing up, and was able to lead the Wolfpack to a 10-0 record in the Southern

Yosemite League, and a Division II Central Section title run.

"We don't really talk basketball that much," Justin said, talking about his relationship with his siblings. "Just like the normal sibling stuff."

As is normal in many sibling relationships, rivalries can sprout through competition. This was the case for Justin and his sister Erica growing up.

"Ohh, we definitely went at it," Justin said. "When I was in 7th grade she used to kill me. She was way taller than me. She was like 6'2" and I was only 5'6". But

we played this last summer and I won so that's all that matters."

Justin grew up following the precedent of his sisters before him. He kept up his academics first and works towards having the highest GPA on the team for a second straight year. Both of his sisters did this while playing at the collegiate level.

"I told him like I told Erica, we aren't going to create anything different. Once DeWanna picks her foot up you are going to put yours right there in the same foot-

print," said Coach McCall.

Growing up seeing the success of his sisters only fueled Justin towards the same goal they had, making it to the professional level.

"I don't feel pressure from anyone but myself. I've never been pressured by my sisters, because they are already there, or family to make it to that level," Justin said. "I want to do it for myself."

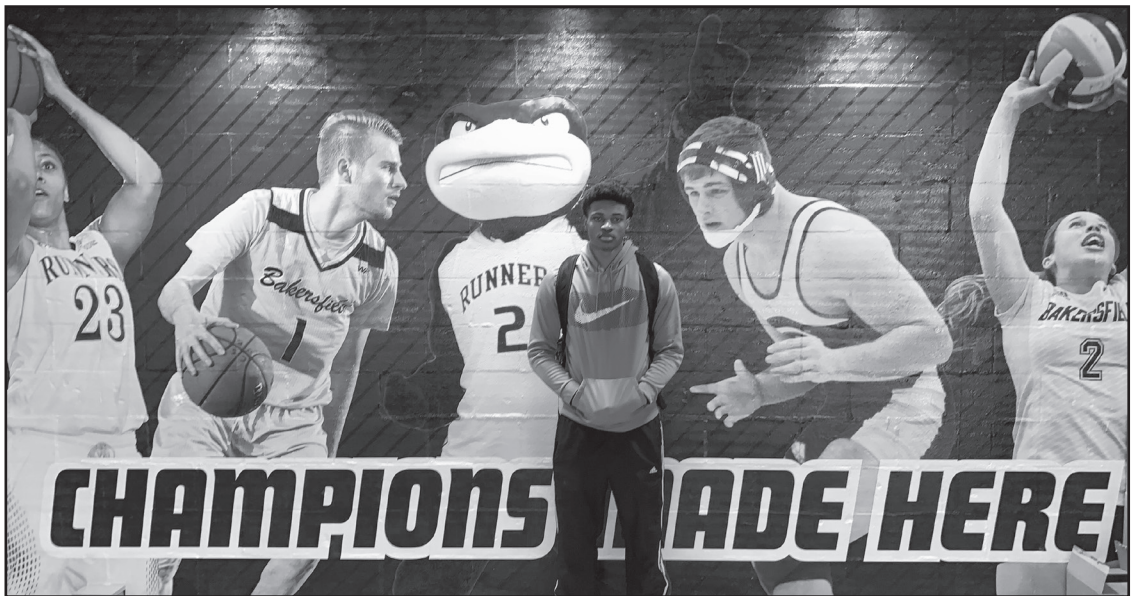
"I'm just trying to improve my game to help the

team win," Justin said. "No long-term goals right now. Just taking things day by day."

If professional basketball is not an option, Justin plans to continue his schooling and finish with a degree in history. He wants to become a high school history



Photo via gorunners.com
Greg McCall, CSUB women's basketball Head Coach.



CSUB mens basketball player Justin McCall in front of Icardo Center lobby mural. Feb. 6 2019

teacher and coach basketball on side.

"I've always been a huge fan of my kids," McCall said. "My favorite line, even though it comes from their mothers side, has always been hops like pops. Even though I didn't really have any."

While reminiscing about a few coach McCall's favorite memories of his children playing, McCall predicted who would win in a friendly, family pick-up game of horse.

"Me. My kids still can't beat me," he said with a laugh. "I'm going to give them

one more shot before I turn 50. If not, then I'm retiring the champ."

Justin smiled when he was told his father's answer.

"Oh, I know I'd win," Justin said laughing. "I told him he doesn't have to do that. He can't retire with the crown like that."

Whether or not DeWanna, Erica, or Justin finally de-throne their father in their family pick-up games.

One thing is for sure, the McCall's can ball.

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Joiner seeks out NBA future

By Vanessa Villalvazo
Sports Editor

From Mississippi to Bakersfield, Jarkel Joiner is on his way to hopefully going pro one day.

“We really liked what we saw, so coach Barnes then started actively and heavily recruiting him,” said assistant coach Jeff Conarroe.

Joiner grew up playing basketball and decided to bring his talent to CSU Bakersfield. He is a Sophomore guard for CSUB men’s basketball team.

He played at Oxford High School where he was named 2017 Mississippi Boy’s Basketball Player of the Year by The Daily Journal. During his senior year he was fourth in the nation averaging 36.5 points per game.

His love for basketball started at a young age, 3 or 4, and he has been playing ever since. He remembers being a kid on a basketball team and playing tournaments. There is one tournament in specific that he will never forget. He remembers shooting the ball from what seemed close to half court, the ball hitting the roof, then going inside the net,

and getting his team the win.

Joiner received his first offer from CSUB when he was in 11th grade. When he finished high school he decided to take that offer and play for CSUB because he felt like they had the best interest for him.

“It felt like home a little bit, I was comfortable with the coaching staff, comfortable with the players, and everybody, they brought me in with open arms,” Joiner said.

During his freshman year at CSUB, he played in all 30 games and started in 27. This year, sophomore, he has played and is the only Roadrunner to start in all games.

“I feel like it’s kind of more pressure at home, but I crowd behind it so once you settle in its good. Away you come into their house so you know what to expect kind of and you just go in there and play freely,” Joiner said.

Leaving his family was hard for him because he knows that his family misses him, but he knows that they are proud of him for doing what he loves. His

family does not come as often to the games, but he is expecting them to come to a game in February. Joiner likes everything about Bakersfield, but does miss his family’s home-cooked meals.

The CSUB men’s basketball team Western Athletic Conference tournament is on March 14-16 and the team is already preparing.

“We [are] just taking it one step at a time, practicing hard, and listening to what the coaches have to say,” he said.

After graduating, Joiner plans on playing basketball professionally for the National Basketball Association.

“He’s a really driven person, he works hard and his hard work is very contagious,” teammate Justin Edler-Davis added. “The way he works, what he does on the court he can definitely be a professional,” he said.

Joiner reset the CSUB Division 1 record with 34 points on Jan. 24. During the game against California Baptist University on Jan 24., Joiner also had a career high of 14 field goals made.



Ana Canales/The Runner
Jarkel Joiner in action at the CSUB vs. UMKC game on Jan. 28, 2018

He was the WAC player of the week on Jan. 28 and was named College Sports Madness WAC Player of the Week on Jan. 21.

“Hopefully I can continue to play if God wants me to. I pray to him all the time and hope that’s what I can do.” Joiner added, “I’d be blessed to play on any team.”

Joiner looks up to profes-

sional basketball player, Damian Lillard who plays for the Portland Trail Blazers.

“That’s my favorite player and I think I try and imitate his moves and try to play like him,” Joiner said.

If he wasn’t playing basketball he thinks he would be cutting hair because that is what his dad does, but he can’t imagine himself doing something else that isn’t playing basketball.

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Men’s Basketball	Women’s Basketball	Baseball	Softball	Wrestling
 at Chicago State @ 7 p.m. 2/14	 vs. Chicago State @ 6 p.m. 2/14	 at Pepperdine @ 10 a.m. 2/15	 at Binghamton @ 12:30 p.m. 2/15	 at Arizona State @ 1:30 p.m. 2/16
 at Kansas City @ 6 p.m. 2/16	 vs. Kansas City @ 7 p.m. 2/16	 at Berkeley @ 2 p.m. 2/15	 at Binghamton @ 10:15 a.m. 2/16	 at California Baptist @ 1 p.m. 2/23
 vs. California Baptist @ 7 p.m. 2/23	 at California Baptist @ 7 p.m. 2/24	 at Ball State @ 10 a.m. 2/16	 at Army West Point @ 12:30 p.m. 2/17	 at Pac-12 all day 3/9

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