

Daily 49er

*Graduation '97
at The Beach*

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

MAY 28 — MAY 30, 1997



Big day calls for weeks of preparation

By Linda Fimleid
Daily Forty-Niner

Before the graduation candidates march across the stage, before the clicks of 50,000 cameras are heard and before the caps are hurled into the air, the Cal State Long Beach Commencement Office and Facilities Management are busy behind the scenes preparing the campus for the three-day commencement event.

Assistant Commencement Coordinator Barbara Hall says it takes about six months to plan for the graduation event which begins Wednesday May 28. Three graduation ceremonies will take place each of the three days at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Preparations for commencement include ordering of stages, chairs and the selection of music, Hall said.

Awards, trophies and plaques for outstanding graduates are ordered as well as flowers to decorate the stage. Graduation information is mailed to students and 30 student assistants are hired and trained as ushers, Hall adds.

About eight weeks ahead of graduation, a 200-page commencement program is produced, Hall said. The program includes the order of exercises for all nine ceremonies and lists the names of the candidates.

One program is given to each graduation candidate. The program is available to guests for \$2 each.

Preparations for Facilities Management begins in January when seeds are sown to insure the lawn on upper campus is ready for the more than 50,000 visitors, said Jeff Riggs, manager of CSULB grounds and landscape services.

"We have a special grass mix called bon-sai which is only [used] on our campus," Riggs said. "[The grass] is the latest technology, it is very durable and takes a lot of foot traffic."

The more than 2,000 flowering peach trees on campus are trimmed in March

and April.

An array of colorful flowers are planted including: day lilies, marigolds, impatiens and petunias.

"We install annual color at all the main entrances and keep it fresh looking to draw people in," he said. "We want people to have a breathtaking view of the interior of the campus."

"As soon as a ceremony is over, we are out there like ants."

— Jeff Riggs
CSULB grounds manager

As graduation draws near, a cast of employees is assembled to work on projects which include stage construction and the arrangement of more than 6,500 rented chairs, Riggs said.

"On Friday, the 23, we begin set-up by touching up paint on hand rails, setting up risers, checking bathrooms, installing power, audio, cables, lighting and wheel chair ramps," Riggs said.

And the work for the team of custodians, painters, plumbers, grounds keepers and movers does not end when the first of the approximately 6,000 graduation candidates walks across the stage.

"As soon as a ceremony is over we are out there like ants," Riggs said. "Within 30 minutes we have picked up the trash, confetti and silly string and straightened up the chairs."

An hour-long reception will follow each ceremony. The receptions will be located on the terrace above the Central Plant.

Hall said that students and their guests are invited to attend the complimentary reception which is paid for by the campus departments.

Beverly Powers, director of cash operations and catering for Forty Niner Shops Inc. said that there will be a garden theme

for this year's reception.

Trees, plants and flowers will be used to decorate the area, Powers said.

"I am looking at maybe a garden arbor, maybe some birdhouses and little animals for decoration," Powers says.

A catering staff of 30 to 40 people will prepare the food for the approximately 30,000 people who are expected to attend the receptions over the three-day period, Powers said.

The menu for the reception will include tea sandwiches, fresh fruit, petite quiche and pastries, Powers said. Dessert selections will include chocolate brownies and cookies.

Forty Niner Shops Inc. is preparing for the event by arranging for the more than eight tents that will be used for a souve-

nir vending booth, a flower booth and food concessions booths, says Bill Grebe, director of satellite foods and concessions for the Forty-Niner Shops Inc.

"We pull down the tents [currently in use on campus] and clean them for use during graduation," Grebe said.

The Shops staff also cleans the area in front of the bookstore.

"We use a high pressure water blaster to clean the front of the building and we re-paint the steps [leading up to the bookstore]," Grebe said.

Much of the clean-up work, like painting the steps must be done when student traffic flow is at a minimum, Grebe said.

"A lot goes on behind the scenes [in preparation for graduation] that people do not realize," he added.

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Maxson reveals memories of his own ceremonies

CSULB President remembers day of celebrating accomplishments

By Linda Fimlaid
Daily Forty-Niner

Graduation is the best day in the life of a university, said Cal State Long Beach President Robert Maxson.

"[Graduation] is a day that we present to the state, the country and the world the products of our efforts," Maxson said. "We announce that we are giving you our best and brightest."

Maxson said that his graduation was an important moment in his life.

"The most meaningful [graduation] was my doctoral, because I had a wife and two small children," Maxson said. "It was a celebration of family accomplishments."



Christina Pompa/Daily Forty-Niner
President Robert Maxson

Maxson graduated from Arkansas A & M with a bachelor's of arts degree in education and psychology in 1958.

In 1967, he earned a master's at Mississippi State University. In 1970, he received his doctorate in educational leadership also from Mississippi State.

"I think, for many people, the most significant accomplishment is their bachelor's degree," Maxson said.

"[With a bachelor's degree] people enter into the occupation, vocation and profession that they will have for the rest of their life."

Maxson said that he enjoys participating in CSULB's graduation ceremonies.

"I love to see the family mem-

bers and friends of the graduates," Maxson said.

"I like the fact that we read every [graduate's] name and I shake every single hand. CSULB does graduation better than any other university."

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PHOTO BY CHRISTINA POMPA/DFN

Editor waves a final goodbye to The Beach

By Laura Lothian
Daily Forty-Niner

So long, farewell, aufwiedersehen, goodnight.

I started Cal State Long Beach midway through Clinton's first term. I thought I might still be here midway through Gore's first term.

But I am done and IT FEELS GOOD! I am glad the lectures are over. I am glad the tests are over. I am glad Philly steak sandwich days at the Outpost are over.

I am not glad my days as editor in chief of the Daily Forty-Niner are over. I have never enjoyed a semester more.

The people that made putting together our daily paper are numerous but there are some standouts.

First is Jodi Banks, this semester's city editor, next semester's editor in chief. She was the backbone of the paper. She worked 40 to 50 hours per

week. She knew when to use the stick and when to use the carrot with writers. I am kind of a stick-only person. Her positive attitude coordinated well with my impatience.

Linda Prendez and Linda Fimlaid, the two Lindas as they were known, are the next students that come to mind when looking at who made this paper tick.

They provided the bulk of the news by attending meetings no one else wanted to cover, by keeping up on the police beat and by never saying no.

News editor Rodd Cayton was invaluable to the paper, not because of his editorial skills (dummies, Rodd) but because of his good-natured dependability and his writing skills; he writes like a long-term pro. I could always count on Rodd for a quality story.

No editors gave less than 100 percent. Sports Editor Jeff McAlpine comes off like the stereotypical jock but is actually a brain. He put the fun into the

paper.

Being in charge of every single photograph (hundreds this semester) that appeared in the paper made Photo Editor Mike Dorsey crazy.

We always knew he was having a tough night when his hair stood up like a wall from his constant pushing. His skill and the talent and support of all of the photo-journalists made the Daily Forty-Niner an award-winning paper this semester.

Without Electronic News Editor Tim Martinelli, we would not have had as many opinion pages as we did. I disagreed with him 95 percent of the time but he wrote with authority.

All of the Jour. 323 writers deserve the gratitude of the editors.

Sherry Walker (sports, features and multiple stories at a time); Tammy Ruhle (features and creative leads); Rick Alonzo and Mike Besack (for providing the bulk of really good sports coverage); Julie Sharp (news,



Amy Beth Bennett/Daily Forty-Niner
Editor in Chief Laura Lothian

features and her poetic style); Mark Newton (knowing his technical stuff) and Laila Meleigy (for really hustling toward the end of the semester when everyone else started taking it easy).

To the production and business people (Jamie M. Eggleston, Georganne Sparks, Talitha Timura and Khoa

Nguyen), thanks for your patience with us. And an extra thanks for your speed.

I want the following faculty to know how much their involvement and guidance really helped the students put the paper together.

William Mulligan (for being a hands-off but demanding publisher), Ivan Goldman (for being a street-smart instructor and news-editorial director who did not let writers get away with being crappy); Wayne Kelly (for being an encouraging and enthusiastic photography director); Emma Daugherty and her PR class (for supplying us with an abundance of usable stories).

Also thank you CSULB President Robert Maxson for visiting us frequently this semester and for taking a sincere interest in us.

Lastly, thank you campus for giving us scandals, thefts, assaults, bomb scares, fires, festivals, politics, sports and entertainment to cover.

The woes of walking — frizzy hair and all

To walk or not to walk, that is the question.

This is not the musings of a 10-month-old; it is the question I have been asking myself for weeks. On May 29, am I going to put on the cap and gown and walk?

My initial answer is no. I hate ceremony. I believe couples should have receptions but not weddings. I do not like the rituals of church. I do not like any man-made event that changes nothing.

Whether I shake hands with Cal State Long Beach President Robert Maxson with my right hand while accepting my diploma with my left hand does not alter whether I earned my bachelor's degree or not.

Linda Jimenez earned her bachelor's degree from CSULB in 1994. She did not walk.

"I didn't have any real close friends that were graduating with me," said Jimenez, a criminal justice major. "There was no strong camaraderie, no, 'we did it!'"

Jimenez celebrated her winter degree with a trip to Lake Tahoe.

"Had I graduated in the spring, my walking or not walking would have been more up for debate," she said. "As it is, I

Laura Lothian

didn't and I don't regret it."

That settled it, I am not going to walk either.

I graduated from eighth grade and high school and both events were disasters. As an eighth grader, I didn't have any dresses pretty or formal enough for graduating.

My mom bought me a lovely lavender polyester dress that was covered in flowers and tied in the back. The kind of dress a bride usually sics on her bridesmaids.

"I didn't walk and I regret it ... it's like missing your prom."

— Ivan Goldman
journalism professor

I stuck it in the closet and forgot about it until the day of the event. I put on the dress and realized in my excitement that I forgot to buy shoes. All I owned were construction boots that

were very popular then.

One of my favorite pictures of me as an awkward pre-teen is me walking on that humid June in Massachusetts, frizzy hair bunched under by blue cap, my lavender flowered dress peeking from beneath the flap of the blue robe, the sunshine just catching the glint of my silver braces and gold-rimmed glasses.

Luckily my mom cannot take photos very well; she missed my brown paint-spattered work boots. Unfortunately, she did catch the tops of my gym socks.

I dress better now. The braces and glasses are gone, though the frizzy hair remains. But I still do not want to walk.

I asked my in-laws for advice (the first time ever).

"I say walk," said Ed Lothian, class of '57. "This is something you'll never get a chance to do again. The ceremony is symbolic of a lot of great effort, it makes it a memory."

His wife, my mother-in-law, chimed in, "I think attending graduation is special," said Joan Lothian, who received her master's in art education from CSULB in 1976.

"I worked really hard, I never thought I'd do it. It was great to have my mom and dad, Ed and the kids there."

I feel myself wavering. What if I don't walk and regret it? I decided to walk.

My sister then reminded me of my high school graduation.

"It's the grand finale ... this is what's it all about. This is the celebration after the grind."

— Carrie Thobe
graduate

I had spent the afternoon laying in the sun.

Then I missed the first half of the ceremony because I was at the mall shopping for a graduation dress and shoes.

By the time I got there, my face was a shiny red tomato and I had missed my name being called.

At the party afterward, my best friend threw up Pina Colada on me. I haven't had a coconut drink since. Alan Carter, the boy I vowed I'd get to know intimately that night,

left with a girl who didn't have a sunburn.

What am I thinking? Graduation ceremonies bite. I am definitely not going to walk.

Ivan Goldman, one of my journalism instructors, tried to change my mind. He told me to walk.

"I didn't walk and I regret it," he said. "It's like missing your prom."

Goldman did not walk because he had just joined the military and felt self-conscious about his shaved head.

Carrie Thobe, who graduated from Concordia University in Irvine in 1994, told me I'd be crazy to miss my graduation.

"It's the grand finale," she said. "This is what's it all about. This is the celebration after the grind."

Six thousand people from CSULB will be walking this month. I still have not made up my mind.

I probably will not but if I do, I will be the one with frizzy hair tucked under my cap and a face filled with trepidation.

Laura Lothian has rented her cap and gown and on May 29 will walk across the stage, shake Maxson's hand and receive her diploma.

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"Originality consists of thinking for yourself, not in thinking differently from other people."

— Walter Lippmann
Journalist, 1933

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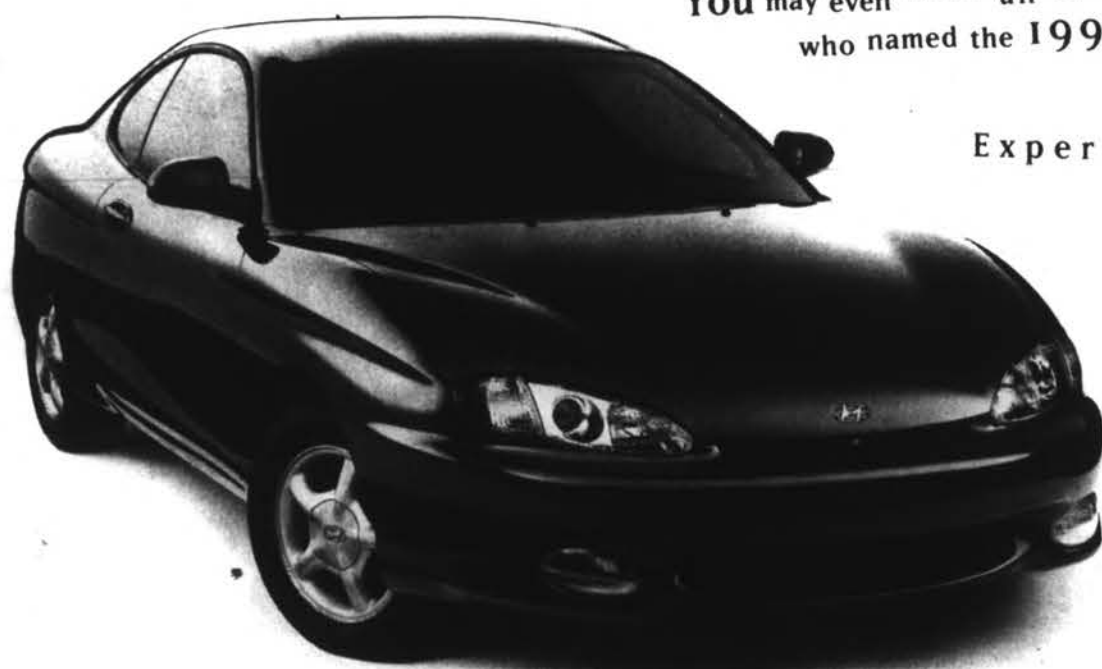
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When she started, CSULB enrollment cost less than a CD

Hired in 1956, mechanical engineering secretary retires

By Sherry Walker
Daily Forty-Niner

After 32 years, Donna Paoli is finally going to "graduate" with a degree in the history of Cal State Long Beach.

Paoli, department secretary in the mechanical engineering department, is calling it quits to the school, faculty, staff and students she has grown to love.

"... The students were primary World War II veterans going to school on their GI bill."

— Donna Paoli
mechanical engineering secretary

"I'm going to retire and have some fun. I'm looking forward

to it after 32 years," Paoli said. "I'll miss the people, but I won't miss the work."

"This is the only employer I've ever had," Paoli said. She quit twice, each time to stay home a few years to raise her two daughters.

"When I started back in 1956, the students were primary World War II veterans going to school on their GI bill," Paoli said. "This was a small college. It had the feel of the midwest where everybody knew everybody."

CSULB was named Los Angeles-Orange County State College and held its first classes in September 1949, in a converted apartment building on Anaheim Road in Long Beach.

The cost of enrollment was \$12.50. The first semester schedule of classes contained only 25 courses to support five baccalaureate degree majors.

"On the Sunday night before classes started I and Dr. Boyd Davis, curriculum evaluator, would drive around in my Volkswagen Bug and post room changes," Paoli said. "Everything was done manually. We worked harder back then, but I enjoyed it."

Paoli adds laughing, "Speaking of Volkswagen bug, we parked diagonal next to the Bixby Ranch fence, and there



Dexter Bercero/Daily Forty-Niner

After working 32 years at CSULB, Donna Paoli is retiring as mechanical engineering department secretary.

were no sidewalks.

"Whenever it rained, plant operations would have to come around with a tractor and pull the employee's cars out of the mud."

"... When I hear from students after they graduate ... that's my reward for staying."

— Donna Paoli
mechanical engineering secretary

"The Foundation Building now sits on what was once a hill. The horses from the ranch would come over and graze on that hill. During lunch, we would sit and watch the horses," Paoli said.

The longtime horse lover plans to move to Laguna Niguel to be closer to her daughters and best friend.

"My best friend Barbara, who I met here at CSULB in 1958, has horses and I'll be able to ride again."

"I could have worked in private industry making more money, but when I hear from students after they graduate and become successful...that's my reward for staying."

Paoli said she has been invited to the class of 1977's reunion and she plans on attending.

"Every class of students are different. Some years students are very active on campus, some years they just want to get through."

"The high-point of my career has been traveling all over the world through my students. This university is a melting pot of cultures, and I have gifts in my office from all over the world."

Paoli said she is going to tell her girls, "Your mother, after 32 years, is finally going to graduate from college."

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Graduate makes campus life a priority

Resident's Coordinator, 1st in 73 cousins to get diploma

By Laila Meleigy
Daily Forty-Niner

She is the first to attend college out of 73 first and second cousins of Mexican ancestry, she is a Resident's Coordinator, she is a crisis counselor for the Sexual Assault Agency of Long Beach, and she is graduating this semester.

Veronica Miranda, a human development major, always enjoyed school. From kindergarten all through high school, teachers, principals and family knew that high school was not the end of the educational road for Miranda.

"My family saw how studious I was, and thanks to their encouragement, I am graduating," Miranda said.

Miranda is the eldest of four children and said she is the only one out of all her siblings that enjoys school.

Her brother, who is 20 years old, struggled his way through high school, and although he attends junior college, he only does so for his job requirements.

"It was so hard to get him to graduate high school," Miranda says of her brother.

Miranda's mother works in a factory assembling parts for computers. Most of her family have technical jobs and do not go to school Miranda said.

Miranda said she is determined in her quest to convince her mother to attend college as she wants her mother to succeed and accomplish great things.

"I just want something better for my mother," Miranda said.

Miranda says the reason she is the first of her family to graduate from college could have something to do with the fact that she is first generation American. She said her family had to find jobs to survive upon their immigration to the United States.

Miranda also said that most of her cousins got preg-

nant at a young age and had no time or recourses for school.

"My cousins got pregnant to rebel against their strict parents," Miranda said.

Miranda said her parents were always very supportive of her schooling. She said her mother was always a member of the Parents Teachers Association.

Her father would make up math sheets full of challenging problems for her to do in her free time, he forbade her from using a calculator, she said.

He did not allow cable in the house and when he saw his daughter watching television he would ask her to go read a book.

Despite their difficulty with the English language, Miranda's parent's always supported and helped her schooling, she said.

Miranda's whole family was involved in Miranda's decision to go to college. They told her she had to go because she would be the first out of 73 family members to graduate.

As Miranda reminisces about those times, she admits she probably would not have gone to school had it not been for her entire family's convincing words.

Miranda said she was going to give it all away for the sake of her boyfriend.

She said she found it hard to leave him all the way back home in San Jose but decided it was the best thing to do for her career goals.

In her freshman year, Miranda's boyfriend asked her to marry him, she considered her options and decided to stay in school.

She said she imagined herself pregnant, married and with no future and decided that was not the life she wished to have. Her and her boyfriend broke up a year later.

"I thought about marrying him for just about a minute but decided it would get in the way of what I wanted to achieve," Miranda said.

Miranda boasts numerous on-campus jobs. She was a Resident Assistant for three years until this year she became the Resident's Coordinator in Los Alamitos

Residential Halls.

She was also a peer counselor for the Women's Resource Center and was involved in freshman activities.

"I loved working with freshmen, they're such fun because they love to do everything," Miranda said.

Although Miranda said she is sad her five years at Cal State Long Beach are over, she said she is also just as relieved.

"Everything I've been working for in life is done," Miranda said.

Miranda now plans to get her teaching credential and to teach first grade or kindergarten children.

She aspires to eventually become a principal.

Miranda's parents are planning a big celebration party for Miranda's graduation. Her kindergarten teachers and high school teachers are all expected to attend.

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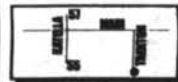
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Alumna Kimberly V. Fogarty
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Outstanding senior honored

By Linda Prendez
Daily Forty-Niner

"I don't know exactly how to explain it," said Shannon O'Loughlin, twiddling with the single cigarette she has already packed three times. "I'm not very good at this."

Yet by the end of her next sentence, she has gathered all the right words to express her thoughts on being chosen as the Social Sciences Outstanding Senior in the College of the Liberal Arts at Cal State Long Beach.

The tattooed 28-year-old looks like an unlikely candidate for the honor. Yet for past three years, she has maintained a 4.0 grade point average and has set a significant list of educational precedents.

A Choctaw Indian from Oklahoma, O'Loughlin is the first in her family to graduate from college. Not only is she the first Cal State Long Beach graduate with a major in American Indian Studies (a program which has existed for 27 years), but she is also the first person to be accepted into a joint master's program at the University of Arizona, where she will work as a teaching assistant to Pulitzer Prize-winning author of "House Made of Dawn," N. Scott Momaday.

O'Loughlin is the vice president of the American Indian Student Council. She has received a McNair Scholarship for graduate study for her research project, "Continuation of the Holocaust: Violation of Reproductive Rights."

As a licensed massage therapist, O'Loughlin has worked her way through school to attain all

these accomplishments. She runs her own business in Fullerton called "Sacred Hands."

O'Loughlin said she is a recovered alcoholic. Sober eight years, she can trace her illness back to her childhood home of Ada, Oklahoma, where she was adopted and raised by her grandparents Anne and Lee. She recalled frequenting neighborhood bars as early as age 13.

"When I was young, I thought it was a dull place to live. It seemed that all there was to do was party," recalled O'Loughlin, adding that she now wishes she was back there.

A year before she graduated from high school, O'Loughlin's grandfather, who then worked for the Environmental Protection Agency, got laid off. He and his wife moved to Utah in search of work. O'Loughlin stayed behind. Free to do as she pleased, her addiction got worse.

By the time she graduated and moved to Utah, O'Loughlin's disease was full blown. She continued to drink heavily through her sophomore year at the University of Utah.

O'Loughlin's expertise with the bottle did not mirror her abilities at school. By 1988 she said she had "burned all her bridges" and had made more enemies than friends.

"Alcohol gave me the false confidence to be what I thought people wanted me to be," she said. "It did the exact opposite. Nobody wanted to work with me."

In 1989 O'Loughlin was kicked out of the acting program at the University of Utah. Before that time, she managed to graduate from massage school,

giving her enough resources to make a move to California.

The date, she said, is etched in her mind permanently: "February 22nd, 1989."

It was the day O'Loughlin chose a new path — one that would eventually lead to her sobriety.

Three months after arriving in California, she moved in with two friends who invited her to her first Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Soon after she would meet the friend who helped her apply to Fullerton Community College, from which she transferred to CSULB.

O'Loughlin says she is afraid that if she leaves it up to herself, her ego might kick in again.

"I always take direction from my elders."

One of her spiritual guides is a man named Little Crow. Little Crow is a former professor of 19 years at CSULB. He now works as co-director of an American Indian church in Garden Grove called "The Gathering."

Little Crow's pride is apparent when he speaks about O'Loughlin. He said that she is the most intelligent student he has ever taught. He is an indispensable role model for O'Loughlin because he himself is 24 years sober.

"I try to live as an example for her. You can't make someone do what you want them to do. Giving advice is cheap," Little Crow said.

O'Loughlin said she is inspired by Little Crow. She said he keeps her in check and always drops her lines of encouragement and philosophy.

Spending weekends in the



Daily Forty-Niner

Shannon O'Loughlin

library and hours in front of a computer is now a way of life for O'Loughlin. She said that it is sometimes a lonely ride. Her grandparents still live in Utah but she said she has made a new family here. Much of that family are part of the American Indian Studies Department at CSULB.

The day O'Loughlin received the offer from the University of Utah, she ran up to the American Indian Studies department where a faculty meeting was taking place.

"I was so excited I couldn't wait [for the meeting to end]," O'Loughlin remembers. "I told them it happened because of each one of them. They've played an important part in all my accomplishments."

When O'Loughlin is asked to recognize her favorite faculty member at commencement, she will honor all of the American Indian department faculty members. An Indian drum group will sing an honoring song after she calls their names.

"When I'm up there wearing my dress it will be for my grandmother," O'Loughlin said. "Her culture was unacceptable in her time. I will give it back to her."

O'Loughlin praised her grandmother for giving her the fundamental know-how to come as far as she has.

Though her grandmother never attended high school, she managed to take one year of art classes at a community college.

"Somehow she learned all she needed to know to get by in a white dominated system," O'Loughlin said. "She used to tell me, 'you sit in the front of the class, you look the teacher straight in the eye and you always introduce yourself.'"

O'Loughlin contends that the American system of teaching is foreign to what she calls the "Indian Way," a communal learning tradition.

"[Native Americans] are invisible students," she explained. "This system is designed to weed out undesirables. It is individualistic and not everyone is honored."

Learning to balance native customs in a European-based scheme is difficult, O'Loughlin said. Ironically, she has mastered the balance at a school which sits on the sacred site of Puvugna, land of the ancient Tongva Indians.

Recalling the Choctaw creation story, she gathered words to explain why she continues her education.

"The Choctaw people were created in the Earth. We do not walk on it. We are part of it. I have a responsibility. Every breath I take effects everything around me. Everything I accomplish will effect everyone around me, especially my people. If I was doing all this for myself I probably couldn't do it."

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Plenty of perks possible for grads

Shedding student status and gaining Alumni prestige through association

By Andi Atwater
Daily Forty-Niner

The Cal State Long Beach Alumni Association each year encourages all graduating seniors to join its nearly 20,000-member organization.

Established in 1952, the association supports the university with scholarships, grants and fund-raising programs throughout the school year, said Gay Arakawa, the association's director.

"We also bring the alumni back to campus," she said. "Being a commuter campus, a lot of students just go to school, graduate, work and raise a family, and there's not really a bond with the university."

In April, the association sent out a newsletter to the approximately 5,800 expected graduates for 1997. The newsletter highlighted some of the benefits of becoming an association member.

But out of the thousands of seniors, only about 500 to 600 graduates routinely join the Alumni Association each year. Arakawa attributes this to the chaos surrounding graduation time.

"Seniors have so much on their minds, worrying about life after college," she said. "They are more concerned with finding jobs and getting started in their careers, and they don't have an idea of the value they get from joining."

Arakawa said the benefits of being an association member far outweigh the one-

time \$25 enrollment fee for CSULB graduates.

Among the CSULB alumni-member benefits are the use of all 21 California State University campus libraries and the CSULB Career Development Center (for a discounted fee), as well as free workshops at the Learning Assistance Center.

Graduates also get a 10 percent discount on most non-credited classes through the University College & Extension Services, Arakawa said.

Other perks include the opportunity to buy short- and long-term medical benefits, discounts to athletic events and theater productions, and credit union membership.

... graduates will have the opportunity to buy and engrave a brick for the Alumni Brick Plaza ... the bricks cost \$100.

This year during commencement ceremonies, the Alumni Association will host a booth featuring last-minute graduation gifts such as flower bouquets and leis, as well as association brochures and flyers.

Through the association, graduates will have the opportunity to buy and engrave a brick for the Alumni Brick Plaza, a permanent walkway featuring the names and dates of past graduates. The bricks cost \$100.



Congratulations

to all of our Graduates, their Families and Friends.

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*President Robert C. Maxson
The Faculty and Staff
California State University, Long Beach*

1997 GRADS

Rashida M. Crutchfield

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but because of the
person you are.
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accomplished
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person you are.

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Sandi Michelle Romero

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admire you.

Mom, Gail & Eric

Kimberly Lynne Johnson

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never stop growing,
never stop becoming
all you were
meant to be.
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Love, David



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Cherie Dougan

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very proud of you!
What a great example you
set for the rest of us. We
are truly blessed having
you in our lives.

Love,
The Cherie Dougan
Fan Club

You Did It!

Student graduates at 69

By Rick Alonzo
Daily Forty-Niner

In 1946, the memories of World War II were fresh in the minds of many. Cal State Long Beach had not even been built yet and Thomas Nichols had just graduated from high school. More than 50 years later, the 69-year-old Nichols is CSULB's oldest graduating senior.

The energetic Nichols, who retired 10 years ago from a teaching career, reflected on what drove him to return to college.

"I didn't want to sit in front of the television set. There were so many things I've always wanted to know. Music was one of them," Nichols said smiling.

Nichols said that he has always had an interest in piano, so he started taking music courses. He attended Orange Coast College for two years and then Golden West College for one year. After "taking a year off to think," he settled in at CSULB in 1993.

"I figured, I've got all these units (in music), so why not make it my major," Nichols said.

At a cost of just \$3 a semester, the incentive is certainly there for senior citizens to enroll in courses within the Cal State system. "I would advise all (senior citizens) to go to school," he said.

Nichols is a well educated man, having earned two degrees at the University of Oklahoma. In 1950 he received a bachelor's degree in Art. He then went on to earn a master's degree in education in 1952.



Brittany M. Solo/Daily Forty-Niner
Thomas Nichols

He recalls that his tuition at OU cost about \$20 a semester. In order to support himself, he worked part-time at the school cafeteria and also taught ballroom dancing.

"I was making 35 cents an hour," Nichols chuckled.

After having earned his master's degree, he taught junior high art and 5th grade for 36 years. He spent the first 16 years teaching in Ponca City, Okla. Motivated by a salary hike and warmer weather, he moved to California four decades ago.

He finished his career in Lancaster, Calif. Nichols has lived in Huntington Beach, Calif., since 1964. He said he has seen many changes in Southern California. The worst of which has been the increased numbers of gangs.

Although he lives in densely populated Southern California,

Nichols grew up on a small farm in Oklahoma. He says that it was easy to focus on his studies while growing up. Nichols graduated from Davis High School in Davis, Okla., in 1946.

"There weren't any distractions. If I wasn't in school, I was in church," he said. "I grew up before the days of TV."

Nichols says he feels that students must be committed if they wish to earn a degree. Distractions must be minimized.

"Sexual relationships are a hindrance," Nichols said. However, he understands human nature. "You've got to have a little romance in your life," he said, explaining that he met his wife, Mary, while at OU.

He was married for 43 years before Mary died 16 months ago. They raised three sons: Ernie, Kevin, and Mark. Mark died three years ago. Nichols also has two grandsons.

Nichols explained that at this stage of his education, he has not had the pressure of having to get good grades.

"It has been a lot more fun ... If any course got to be too stressful, I dropped it," he laughed.

Although he is almost 70 years old, Nichols shows few signs of slowing down. He attends First Southern Baptist of Fountain Valley, where he sings in the choir and volunteers to teach music. He also plays tennis four days a week.

He plans to celebrate his graduation by taking a study tour of Austria in order to learn more about the music, life and times of Mozart.

Nichols said, "I don't ever plan to sit around at home."

Quality resumes not the only trick of the job trade

By Therese Rincon
Special to the Daily Forty-Niner

Cal State Long Beach graduation ceremonies are just around the corner. It is time for students to write an effective resume that will increase their chances of obtaining a job interview.

Graduating students are caught up in all the stress of completing last minute assignments, finally finishing school and facing the fears of going out into the real world. Now is the time students must focus on the importance of writing a good resume.

A resume gives the students a chance to present themselves in the best possible way. This is the student's chance to sell their qualifications for the job they are seeking.

Dr. Patricia Kearney, of the speech communication department is currently teaching Theory and Techniques of Interviewing which emphasizes interviewing skills, preparing resumes and writing cover letters.

"A resume should be packaged in a way that represents you as a professional," Kearney said.

When preparing a resume, one should make a list of education, experiences, skills, accomplishments, goals, inter-

ests and activities according to Kearney. A resume should relate student qualifications to the job requirements.

Sometimes students fear not having enough experience or qualifications to prepare a complete resume.

Education and work experience should be followed by a list of relevant skills.

When listing skills, one should examine the course work taken that is related to the job that the student is applying for and list them.

Accomplishments, interests, and activities should follow. This section is important to emphasize and also the reason why involvement in organized groups and activities throughout the school and community is stressed.

Last are references. Names should never be listed on the resume according to Kearney. Instead, make sure a list of three references is available upon request.

When writing a resume, it needs to be simple, neat and no longer than one page.

"A common mistake that is made when preparing a resume is that people use the wrong type of paper and have misspelled words," Kearney said. She said that it is important to use white, ivory,

See RESUME/16

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A Phi Beta Kappa overcomes disability

By Laura Lothian
Daily Forty-Niner

KC Offenberg, a 24-year-old Cal State Long Beach student, is graduating Phi Beta Kappa this month, which is a big deal. Among other requirements, one must have a 3.7 GPA or higher.

Only 14 others (out of 6,000 graduating CSULB students) managed to warrant entree into America's first honor society.

What makes it even more of an accomplishment for liberal studies major Offenberg is that he has a learning disability. Several learning disabilities.

"When some people get tested [for learning disabilities] they'll spike huge in some places and not at all in others," Offenberg said. "I spike a little in a lot of categories."

Included in the list Offenberg's learning disabilities are occasional lapses of stuttering, a mild attention deficit disorder and hearing difficulties.

"I really don't have a hearing problem, but a processing problem. I can't filter out other sounds," he explained. "I can remember almost nothing before [age] 14."

With his close-cropped goatee and clear brown eyes, observing everything through square glasses, Offenberg comes off as more of an intense intellectual rather than a student who frequently needs a note-taker in class.

"You can't see my learning disabilities," he said. "But if you hang around me long enough, you'll see them."

Offenberg said stress makes his conditions worse.

"The less stressed out I am, the easier it is for me to over-compensate [for his disabilities]."

He credited Disabled Student Services for teaching him the basics of overcoming deficiencies.

"You are never cured," Offenberg said. "You learn adaptability."

Offenberg's methods of adaptability extended into his concentration of study. He said he chose geography because he is very visual and math comes easy to him.

He is now enrolled at CSULB for post-graduate studies and plans to earn his master's degree in geography.

When he is finished with his

education he plans on teaching college part-time (geography classes) and entering the field of cartography (map making).

"See, I'm looking for my strengths," Offenberg said. "Map making is visual, low stress and not noisy. This works for me."

Offenberg did not start reading until he was in the third grade. Although his mother, who is a teacher, wanted her son tested for learning disabilities in the fourth grade, he was not tested until he was 19 and in college.

"I got through high school with honors, even though I couldn't write paragraphs," he said.

He credited his "125ish IQ" for allowing his shortcomings to go undetected. "I was B.S.-ing my teachers. I had enough of an intellect to con everyone."

Another reason his learning disabilities were overlooked for so long was that all people suffer from one disability or another, according to Offenberg.

"Everyone has what I have," he said. "I just have it to a further degree." He used dyslexia as an example.

"How many times have you

been given an address like 1331 and wrote it down 1313?"

What Offenberg does that not many others do is "shut down."

"I'll be gone for 15 minutes. Just completely not there."

To stop from shutting down, Offenberg fidgets to keep his attention.

Offenberg's disabilities do not seem to have affected his personal life negatively. He has friends with and without learning disabilities. He is a self-confessed lover of cable television.

"TV is my God!"

In his spare time Offenberg in-line skates, occasionally mountain bikes and watches movies, although he said if he sees a movie only once, he does not remember it.

"I've seen 'Star Wars' 30 times."

He also likes to party, he said. "When I've had a couple of drinks I get hyper-happy."

An observation of his is that alcohol affects people with learning disabilities more than the average person.

"It takes less to get drunk. Many LDs tend to be a lot more responsible drinkers. They're not teetotalers or raging partiers. They are more consci-



Brittany M. Solo/Daily Forty-Niner
K. C. Offenberg

entious."

Many of his social acquaintances are members of the Geography Student Association, which he called a "big social club."

Offenberg said his best friend is his mother, his biggest supporter.

"She's been the one that's been through the best and the worst of times. Several times in the past when I wanted to give up due to my LD, she'd just pick up the pieces and give my confidence," Offenberg said. "I love her."

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Responsibilities: Gowns, tassels, loans?

By Sherry Walker
Daily Forty-Niner

The day has finally come, no more studying, no more exams, no more poor college student.

Graduation means that exciting new job and a real paycheck. Students can now afford that new car. The one that does not require a group of buddies to push start it — But wait, not so fast.

Not only is college graduation a time to celebrate and take on new responsibilities, it is also a time to review old responsibilities.

For those who have student loans, one of those responsibilities will be loan repayment.

Now that students are about to leave Cal State Long Beach, graduates with student loans should make sure their address information is up-to-date with their lenders.

"Graduates should be receiving a graduation letter from their lender," said Lorene Perez, loan coordinator at CSULB.

The letter discloses all the information about student loans, such as when the loan goes into repayment, how much the repayment is per month, the inter-

est rate and the method of repayment.

Approximately 85-90 percent of student loans are owned by Sallie Mae, one of the nation's largest financial services companies, which buys student loans from lenders, according to Perez.

The average student from

last year's class was \$11,500 in debt upon graduation. "Families are relying more and more on loans to help pay for college," said Lydia Marshall, executive vice president at Sallie Mae.

Timely student loan repayments can mean big savings for students and their parents.

"There are a number of student loan repayment plans that can help make monthly payments more affordable," Marshall said.

For example, banks and lenders that partner with Sallie Mae will reduce a borrower's interest rate by two full percentage points after the first 48 pay-

ments are made on time through the Great Rewards program, as reported by Sallie Mae.

"...With all the excitement about getting into and finally going to college, families often don't take the time to compare the different benefits, repayment options and services that student loan lenders offer," Marshall said.

The following is a list of money-saving borrower benefits offered by Sallie Mae:

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Money Saving Borrower benefits:

Paying your student loan on time or using automatic debit can save you money. Sallie Mae offers several programs, such as rate reductions or account credits for timely payments.

Prepayment:

This means paying off some or all of your student loan before payment is due. This reduction in principal balance means the borrower pays less over the life of the loan.

Repayment Plan Comparison Chart			
REPAYMENT PLAN	LOAN AMOUNT (8.25% INTEREST*)	MONTHLY PAYMENT	PROJECTED TOTAL COST OF LOAN
*As of April 1997			
Standard Repayment	\$10,000	\$123 for 10 years	\$14,718
Graduated Repayment	\$10,000	\$69 (years 1-2)	\$15,344
Income Sensitive Repayment	\$10,000	Based on \$20,000 salary and 4% of income: \$69 (year 1) \$123 (years 2 - 11)	\$15,543

Figures based on information obtained from Sallie Mae

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Ethnic ceremonies celebrate graduates

By Linda Prendez
Daily Forty-Niner

At the end of four (or more) years together, many Cal State Long Beach graduating seniors have become part of their own campus families.

Ethnic students in particular are bonded with others they may not even know. This year several groups of ethnic graduates will be honoring their heritage with commencement celebrations.

The oldest of the six celebrations that will take place on campus is the African American Graduation Celebration, which is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

According to Simona Hollins, chairperson of the African American Celebration since its inception in 1987, the number of participating graduates has grown from 50 to 110 this May. Song performances and poetry readings will highlight the graduation.

"The celebration does not take place of the regular commencement ceremonies, rather it is a personal tribute to black graduates and families for their achievements and the adversities they have overcome," Hollins said.

The other ceremonies which include the Chicano Latino, American Indian, Pacific Islanders, Filipino, and the Asian and Japanese Graduation Celebration also place an emphasis on family involvement.

The 8th Annual Chicano Latino Graduation Celebration involves families by presenting a bilingual program. According to Robert Lara, staff advisor for the Latino Student Union, the program coordinators made a conscious effort to encourage family members to pursue higher education.

"The emphasis of our graduation is personal and motivational," Lara said. "A majority of the individuals participating

are the first in their family to graduate from college, maybe even high school."

Presenting the program in Spanish inspires family members because they can better understand and appreciate the graduates' accomplishments, Lara said.

Since the first Chicano graduation, the number of graduates has grown eight times its original size.

With 185 graduating seniors this year, the expected attendance is 3500 people, making the celebration the largest yet. The program will feature guest speakers, including the Consulate General of Mexico and Douglas Patiño, vice chancellor of California State Universities.

Ten graduates will be honored by elders, family, faculty and alumni at the American Indian Graduation Celebration. Dr. Lester Brown, director of the American Indian Studies department said the celebration will be much like other traditional Native American gatherings.

"It will begin with a blessing," Brown said. "Then we will make presentations to the young people who have achieved. Then we will have a party."

Brown said more than 500 alumni have been invited to the reception.

Asian students will participate in one of three ceremonies, according to their nationality. The Asian and Japanese graduates will celebrate together. The other two ceremonies are for Filipino graduates and Pacific Islanders.

According to Dr. Henry Sioux Johnson, Pacific Islanders make up the largest portion of the Asian student population at CSULB. Ironically, they are the smallest group of Asian graduates — only two.

Despite the disparity, Sioux said this is a great accomplishment.

"The programs here are still not fully receptive to their needs," Sioux said. "The drop-out rate [of Pacific Islanders] is 90 percent."

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Diploma's in the mail

By Rodd Cayton
Daily Forty-Niner

Graduating students expect to hear "Pomp and Circumstance," as they walk across the stage at graduation in front of a crowd of thousands, including Mom and Uncle Abner. Also expected, is at the end, Cal State Long Beach President Robert Maxson shakes the proffered hand and hands over the degree.

Not exactly, according to Fall 1996 graduate Mark Peinado.

"They give you some cheap piece of paper that just says you graduated," Peinado said.

Actually, CSULB students wait about a semester before actually receiving their coveted degrees. The university offers the option of picking the degree up at Enrollment Services or of filling out a card and having it sent through the mail.

Peinado chose to come to school and pick his up.

"I thought it was easier that way," Peinado said. "I didn't want it through the mail."

Darci Huettner, who graduated from

CSULB in the Fall, 1995, chose to let the post office ship her reward.

"It was more convenient for me," Huettner said.

Huettner, who has a B.A. in human development, said she did not want to wait in a long line at Enrollment Services. She said she does not know of anyone else who has taken the degree-by-mail option.

Peinado said he would have opted to take delivery on his mail under certain circumstances.

"If I felt safe about it or was out of town."

Peinado said that picking up his degree meant less discomfort in the event of error.

"What if it gets lost?" Peinado said. "Or if my name is spelled wrong?"

Peinado said the wait at Enrollment Services was only about five minutes long and that there were "three or four" people before him.

Peinado said coming up to CSULB from his home in Santa Ana also gave him a chance to socialize.

"I wanted to see if anyone was still around that I knew," Peinado said. "I killed two birds with one stone."

RESUMES: essential

Continued from 12

or gray-bond paper. Students should use a high-quality printer, include e-mail address if available and a cover letter.

A resume is the first impression that an employer receives. The information offered should always be accurate and should include action words and phrases.

It is important to have someone critique the resume before sending it out, Kearney said.

The Career Development Center at CSULB offers counselors to help students write and critique resumes. The center is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. No appointments are

necessary. The center operates on a walk-in basis.

A cover letter should always be sent with the resume. "The cover letter introduces the potential player," Kearney said.

The letter should show interest in the job and focus on the student's strongest experiences.

Next, students should translate and highlight their resumes in a persuasive style. In the conclusion, the cover letter should restate students' qualifications and ask for an interview.

After the interview, it is important to write a thank you letter. Whether students feel the interview was a success or not, it is crucial to write a thank you letter in order to make a good lasting impression.

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A Titan of a day

By Mike Besack
Daily Forty-Niner

It was late Saturday night and Cal State Long Beach head Coach Dave Snow took a long look into his bullpen.

The 49ers had just won their third-straight Big West Conference Tournament game, and now looked ahead to an early game Sunday against Cal State Fullerton, who already had one loss in the double-elimination tourney.

Snow, who had to go deep into his pen to save arms for the forthcoming NCAA tournament, was about to find out who had the deeper starting pitching.

Fullerton did.

Needing to win the first game Sunday to force a second, Fullerton did just that, beating the 49ers 7-2 and 15-6, to win the Big West title and earn an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament before 1,241

at Blair Field.

The Titans (37-22-1) chased 49er starter Iran Barerra out of the first game, then lit up No. 5 starter Denny Gilich in the second to secure the title. Meanwhile, Fullerton got superior performances on the mound from starters John Alkire and Mike Garner.

"I feel like we're at the same place we were a week ago when we got swept by Cal Poly [San Luis Obispo]," Snow said after Sunday's second loss.

It was the 49ers (37-23) who rebounded from a disappointing previous weekend against the Mustangs, beginning the tournament 3-0 and putting themselves in the position to win it all with just a single victory over the Titans.

"To come back after last weekend with a new attitude was refreshing," 49er first baseman Toby Sanchez said. "Today we didn't get the breaks. For us to let it effect our game would be uncharacteristic."

On track to graduation

By Rodd Cayton
Daily Forty-Niner

When not running, jumping or throwing something, Andy Sythe's athletes have probably been busy studying. Sixteen members of the Cal State Long Beach track and field team graduate this year.

Sythe is the head track and field Coach.

Aaron Junta, who does the lung jump and the triple jump, will return to CSULB in the fall, so he can begin his pursuit of a master's degree in kinesiology and physical education.

Damon DeVault, a shot putter and discus thrower, is also looking toward earning a master's with an eventual eye toward teaching mathematics in high school.

Four other CSULB track athletes will

be shaking hands with university President Robert Maxson after completing a course of study in kinesiology: Lily Wong, Gary Cablayan Shannon Chapman, and Mirna Lopez.

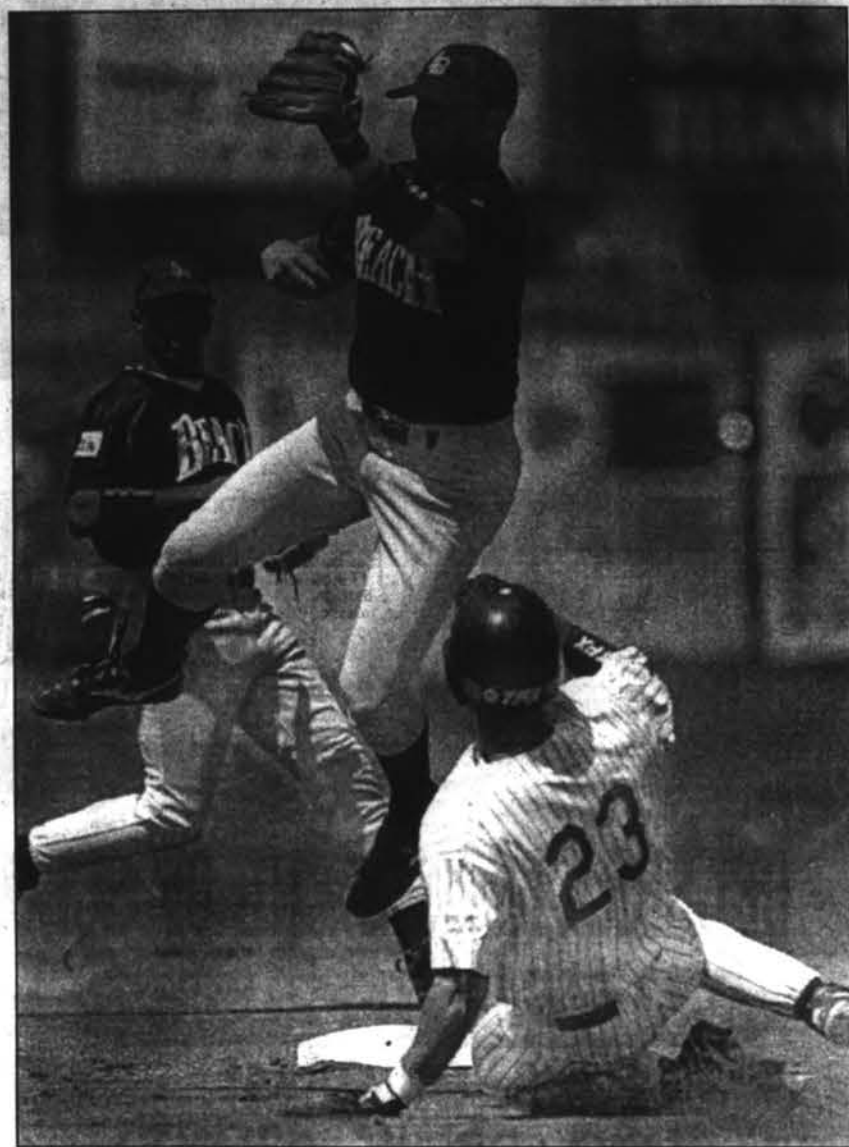
Michael Morgan, who is no longer competing because of an injury, is working with the team as an assistant.

Morgan will receive his degree in accounting.

Also graduating is Christa Ayuso, who is earning her degree in English education.

Tanya Futami is graduating as a human development major.

Other soon-to-be graduates, and their majors: David Burnette, marketing; Cecilia Bustamante, health science; Bryan Gartin, English; Dafona McClain, psychology; Tara Rucker, speech communications; Walter Senior, political science; and Ryan Wirth, international business.



John Kennedy/Daily Forty-Niner

After making it to the final round of the Big West Championship at Blair Field unscathed, the 49ers were upended by the Titans and denied the Big West title.

Swell gifts for graduation at University Bookstore

By Julie Sharp
Daily Forty-Niner Advertising

Graduation is the perfect time for graduates to rake in the gifts.

Relatives and loved ones bubbling over with pride are searching for ways to spend their money on gifts to bestow upon their graduate.

After serving time in the institution, usually at a minimum of four years, most graduates may be happy with bills, that is dollar bills.

Charlotte Jones, manager and buyer for the Beach Shop in the University Bookstore offers gift ideas, most of which boast the Cal State Long Beach logo, that may have more sentimental value than the gift of money.



Photo by Holly Rindge

Jones pointed out that every degree needs a frame. The Bookstore offers diploma frames from simple to elegant that range in price from \$50 to \$125. Another popular gift is the

brass alumni license plate, beginning at \$32. Cross pens also score big at graduation time.

"We have free Cross pen engravings on the first day of the graduation ceremonies. The pen is the ultimate graduation gift," said Chris Tabellario, buyer in the art/supply department of the Beach Store. Prices for the pens start at \$17 and go up to \$145.

In the middle to low price range are T-shirts, mugs and wood laser engraved picture frames with a tassel attached. Leather-like padfolio's bearing the CSULB logo are the professional's notebook and fall in the \$15 to \$20 range.

Jones also highly suggests the emblematic brass line which includes the key chain, black-leather wallet, mini-clocks, cuff links, desk set with pen, pendant neck-

lace, money clip and a rosewood arch clock. Prices in the brass line range from \$15 to \$84.

Graduation for the Beach Shop is equivalent to retail's Christmas eve. It expands during graduation into a

balloon store and a booth near the ceremony ready to accommodate the influx of shoppers.



Photos by Christina Pompa and Dexter Bercero

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